

MARVEL



HEROES FOR HIRE™

A MARVEL COMICS® EVENT

CIVIL WAR™

GRAY • PALMIOTTI • TUCCI • PALMER • PORTELA



WHOSE SIDE ...ARE YOU ON?

AS CIVIL WAR RAGES THROUGHOUT THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, AN UNLIKELY GROUP OF HEROES HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER TO HUNT DOWN AND CAPTURE CRIMINALS WHO REFUSE TO SIGN THE REGISTRATION ACT. IN RESPONSE TO THE OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF MASKED FUGITIVES ON THE LOOSE, MISTY KNIGHT AND COLLEEN WING USE THEIR BAIL-BONDS SKILLS, UNDERWORLD CONNECTIONS AND GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO LEAD AN ALL-NEW HEROES FOR HIRE INTO BATTLE. ACTION, ADVENTURE, CRIME, BEAUTIFUL WOMEN AND KUNG FU CHAOS COME TOGETHER IN THIS EXPLOSIVE NEW SAGA FEATURING BLACK CAT; SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU; PALADIN; MISTY KNIGHT; COLLEEN WING; AND THE ALL-NEW TARANTULA.

COLLECTING *HEROESFORHIRE* #1-5—WRITTEN BY JUSTIN GRAY AND JIMMY PALMIOTTI (CLAWS), AND ILLUSTRATED BY BILLY TUCCI (SHI) AND FRANCIS PORTELA (CAPTAIN UNIVERSE/X-23).



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CIVIL WAR™

GRAY

TUCCI

PALMIOTTI

PALMER

After Stamford, Connecticut is destroyed during a televised fight between the New Warriors and a group of dangerous villains, public sentiment turns against super heroes. Advocates call for reform, and a Superhuman Registration Act is passed which will require all those possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government, divulge their true identities to the authorities and submit to training and sanctioning in the manner of federal agents. Anyone with super-powers who refuses to register is now a criminal.

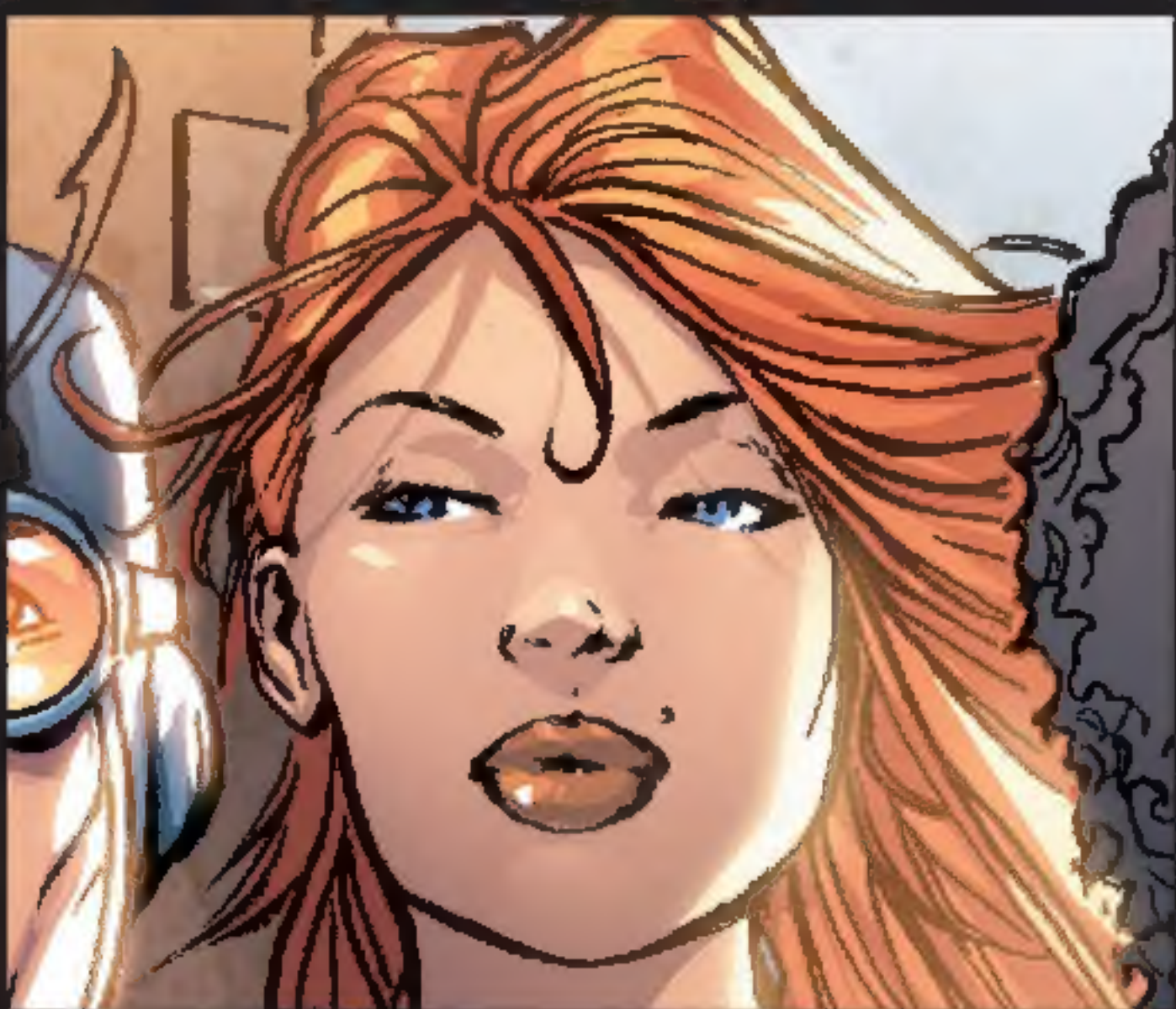
Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society and a reasonable request. Others, like Captain America, view the Act as an assault on their civil liberties, and go underground to form a resistance movement.

And then there's a third category of hero...

HEROES FOR HIRE



MISTY KNIGHT



COLLEEN WING



HUMBUG



**SHANG-CHI,
MASTER OF KUNG FU**



TARANTULA



BLACK CAT

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS, PART I

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HERE'S THE DEAL.

IT'S NO *SECRET* THAT THE *NEW WARRIORS* MESSED UP IN A WAY WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR *SOMEONE* TO MESS UP.

THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS HAS BEEN BUBBLING UNDER THE SURFACE FOR A *VERY LONG TIME*. ALL IT TOOK WAS ONE NASTY *TRAGEDY* FOR THE WHOLE THING TO START *BOILING OVER*.

DAMN *SHAME* IT HAD TO BE THOSE KIDS, BUT YOU CAN'T EXPECT ALL *SUPERHUMAN CONFLICTS* TO END WITHOUT PUTTING A FEW *INNOCENT BYSTANDERS* IN THE MORGUE.

MY MONEY WAS ALWAYS ON THE *MUTANTS*. I FIGURED IF *ANYONE* WAS GONNA PUSH THE GOVERNMENT'S *PARANOIA BUTTON* HARD ENOUGH TO START A *WAR*, IT WOULD BE THEM. IT DOESN'T HAPPEN TOO OFTEN, BUT I GUESS I WAS *WRONG*.

NOW THAT IT'S *HAPPENED*, THE GOVERNMENT SAYS *ANYONE* WITH *SUPER-POWERS* IS NOW CONSIDERED A WALKING *WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION*.

I REPEAT
WE NEED BACKUP!
CALL IRON MAN, THE
FANTASTIC FOUR...
ANYBODY!

STEP
ASIDE,
BOYS...

...WE GOT THIS.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

SHUT UP, FALL BACK AND LET US SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE.

YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHO WE ARE.

BACK IN THE DAY, **POWER MAN** AND **IRON FIST** TOOK IT TO THE PERPS OLD-SCHOOL STYLE WITH A BUSINESS CALLED **HEROES FOR HIRE**...IT WAS EXACTLY WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE.

THIS IS WHEN THE MAYOR WAS OFF PLAYING TENNIS AND THE PIMPS, MOBSTERS AND DRUG-DEALING SCUM RAN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK AND EVERYONE ELSE WAS JUST TOO DAMN SCARED TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

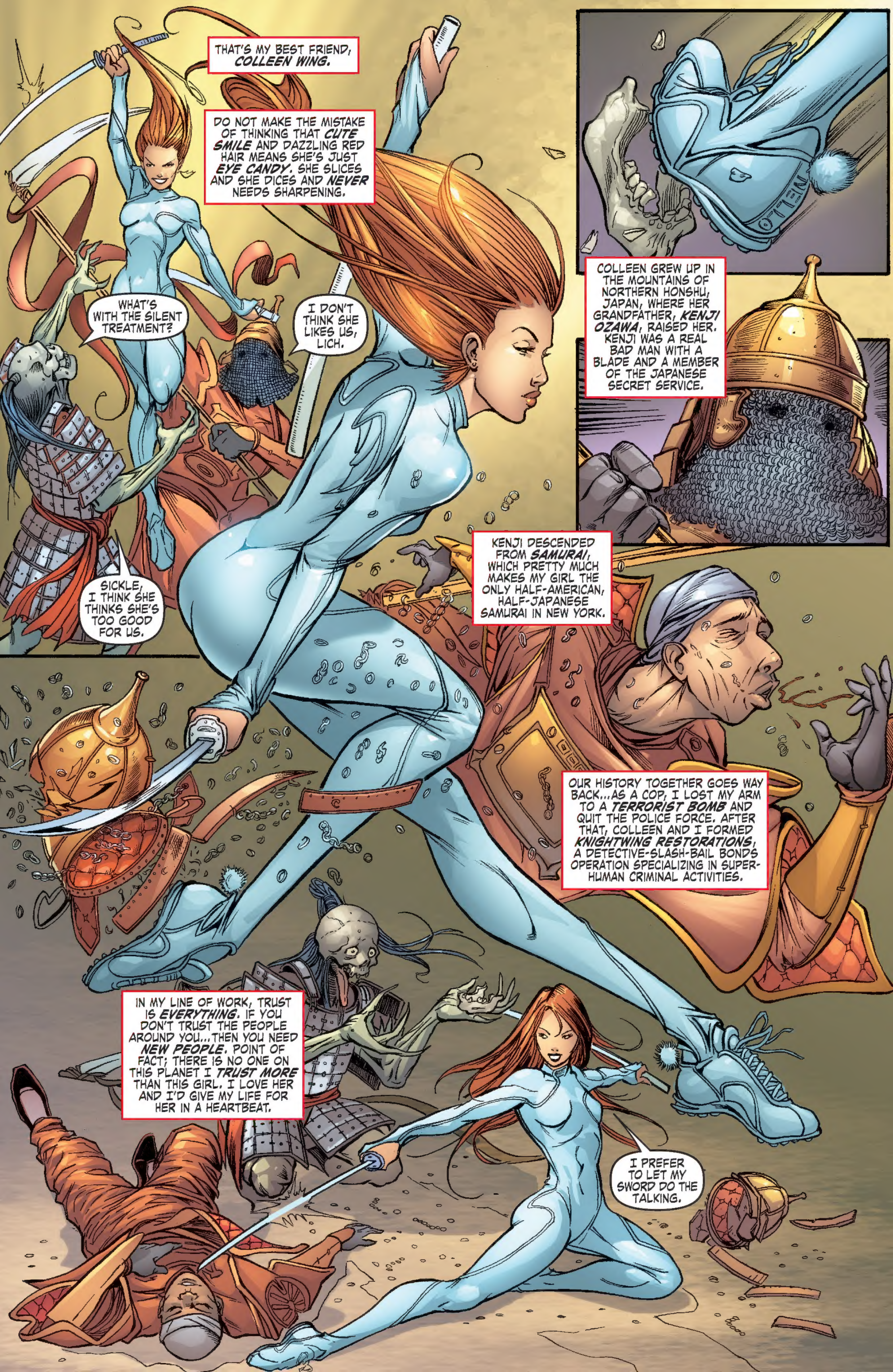
THEY WERE COOLER THAN COOL AND I WISH WE HAD THEM WITH US, BUT THAT AIN'T THE SITUATION. LUKE CAGE IS WITH THE **AVENGERS** AND MY OLD BOYFRIEND **IRON FIST** IS M.I.A.

ANYWAY, THE SAME **PRINCIPAL** IDEA APPLIES TO US...ONLY WE'RE GETTING FULL PAY WITH MEDICAL AND DENTAL, COURTESY OF THE **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**, RATHER THAN TAKING CASH DIRECTLY FROM JOHN Q. PUBLIC.

RIGHT NOW WE'RE HERE TO ROUND UP THE LATEST BATCH OF GOONS THAT CALL THEMSELVES THE COMPLETELY UNINSPIRED **MANDARIN'S AVATARS**.

YEAH, I KNOW, THE **MANDARIN** DIED, BUT MY CONTACTS TELL ME A **NEW GUY** STEPPED IN TO FILL HIS SHOES.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THE **NEW HEROES FOR HIRE**...



THAT'S MY BEST FRIEND,
COLLEEN WING.

DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE
OF THINKING THAT **CUTE
SMILE** AND DAZZLING RED
HAIR MEANS SHE'S JUST
EYE CANDY. SHE SLICES
AND SHE DICES AND **NEVER**
NEEDS SHARPENING.

WHAT'S
WITH THE SILENT
TREATMENT?

I DON'T
THINK SHE
LIKES US,
LICH.

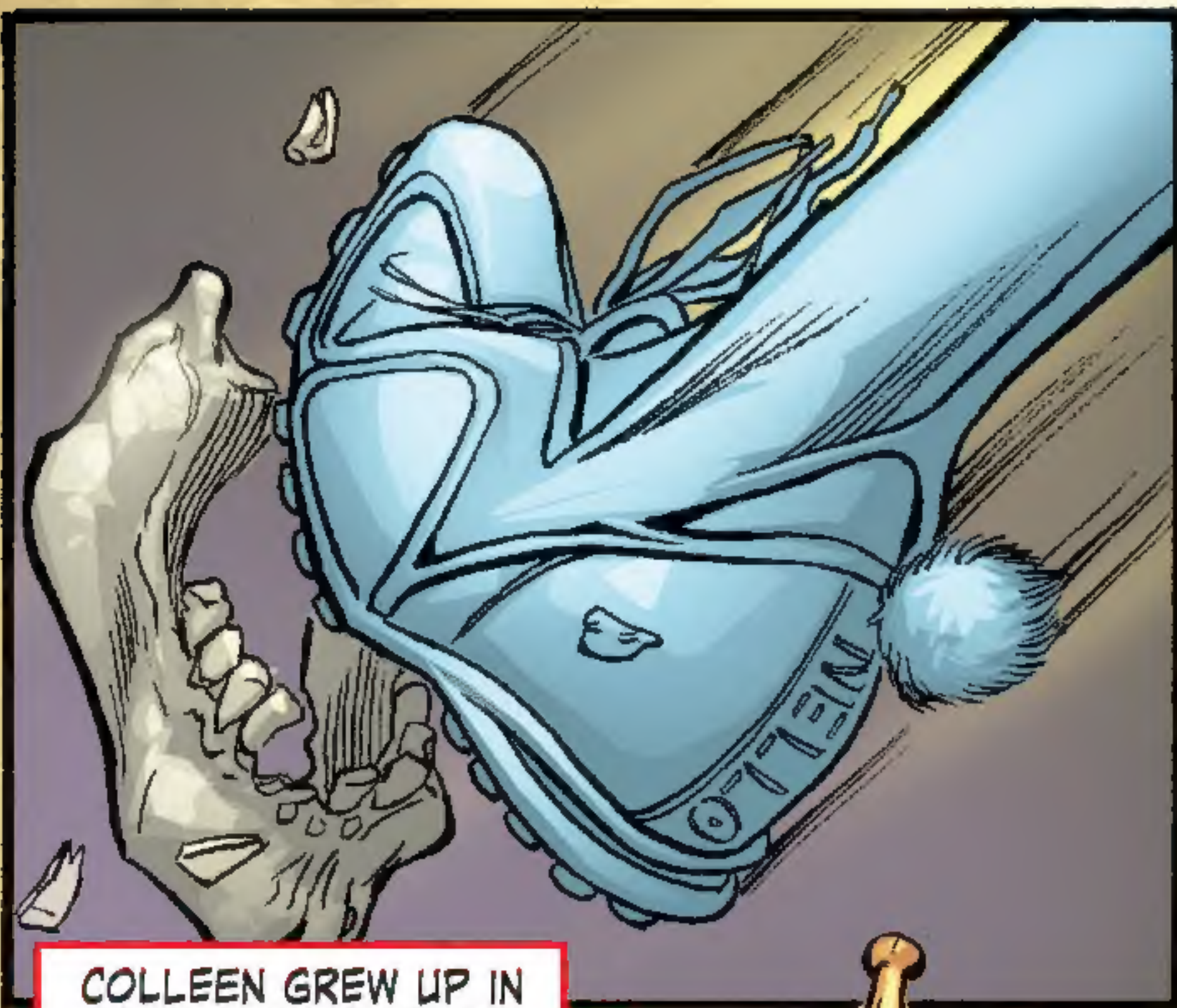
SICKLE,
I THINK SHE
THINKS SHE'S
TOO GOOD
FOR US.

KENJI DESCENDED
FROM **SAMURAI**,
WHICH PRETTY MUCH
MAKES MY GIRL THE
ONLY HALF-AMERICAN,
HALF-JAPANESE
SAMURAI IN NEW YORK.

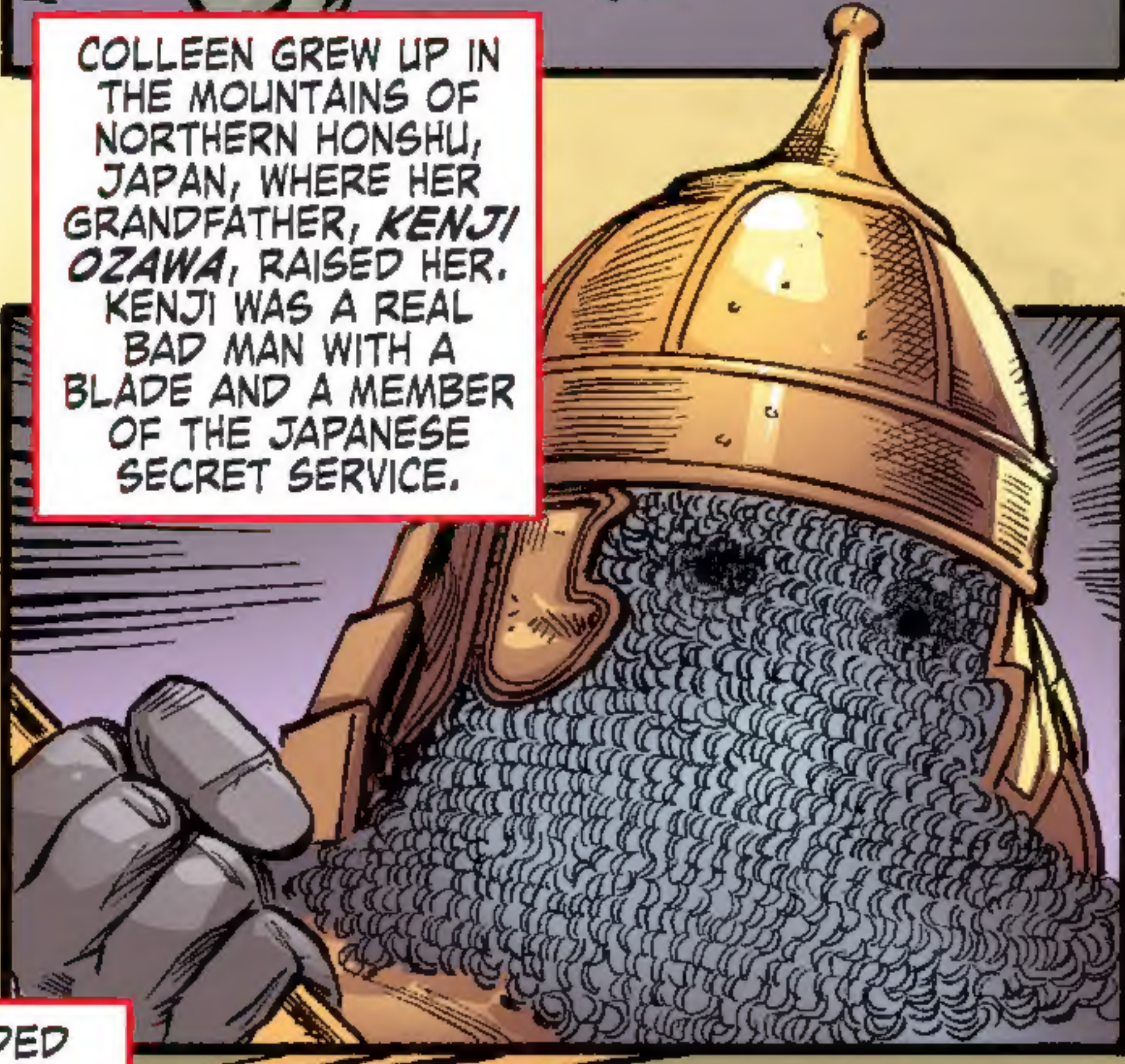
OUR HISTORY TOGETHER GOES WAY
BACK...AS A COP, I LOST MY ARM
TO A **TERRORIST BOMB** AND
QUIT THE POLICE FORCE. AFTER
THAT, COLLEEN AND I FORMED
KNIGHTWING RESTORATIONS,
A DETECTIVE-SLASH-BAIL BONDS
OPERATION SPECIALIZING IN SUPER-
HUMAN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

IN MY LINE OF WORK, TRUST
IS **EVERYTHING**. IF YOU
DON'T TRUST THE PEOPLE
AROUND YOU...THEN YOU NEED
NEW PEOPLE. POINT OF
FACT; THERE IS NO ONE ON
THIS PLANET I **TRUST MORE**
THAN THIS GIRL. I LOVE HER
AND I'D GIVE MY LIFE FOR
HER IN A HEARTBEAT.

I PREFER
TO LET MY
SWORD DO THE
TALKING.



COLLEEN GREW UP IN
THE MOUNTAINS OF
NORTHERN HONSHU,
JAPAN, WHERE HER
GRANDFATHER, **KENJI
OZAWA**, RAISED HER.
KENJI WAS A REAL
BAD MAN WITH A
BLADE AND A MEMBER
OF THE JAPANESE
SECRET SERVICE.



THE DIMINUTIVE FELLOW IN THE BLACK LATEX IS BUCK MITTY, BUT HIS DRESS-UP NAME IS *HUMBUG*.

MITTY'S AN EX-CON AND ENTOMOLOGY NUT. FOR YOU NON-SCIENCE TYPES, THAT MEANS HE'S CRAZY FOR BUGS...

YOU'RE ANCESTOR, RIGHT? YOUR SPECIAL POWER IS LEECHING OFF OF STRONGER OPPONENTS.

YOU MUST BE LOST, LITTLE MAN. THE LEATHER BAR IS AROUND THE CORNER.

YOU THINK THIS IS BAD, YOU SHOULD SEE MY OLD COSTUME.

WHERE ARE THESE INSECTS COMING FROM?

THOSE ARE FEMALE NEW ENGLAND BLACKFLIES.

SEE, THE MALES DON'T FEED OFF OF LIVING MEAT--

--THEY JUST CARRY NECTAR FOR THE LADIES.

GET THEM OFF ME, YOU REPULSIVE LITTLE FREAK!

YEAH, I KNOW, NOT THE KIND OF MONIKER THAT STRIKES FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN, SMALL CHILDREN OR EVEN FURRY ANIMALS.

GHAAAA... CALL THEM OFF!

BLACKFLIES ARE FEARLESS.

THEY CRAWL INTO YOUR EYES, EARS, NOSE AND ANY OTHER AREA OF EXPOSED SKIN.

SO, I'D SUGGEST YOU CLOSE YOUR MOUTH OR THEY'LL LAY EGGS IN YOUR THROAT.

YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING I'M *NUTS* FOR PROCURING THE SERVICES OF THE *POSTER CHILD* FOR ALL THE GUYS PICKED *LAST* IN GYM CLASS, BUT CONSIDER *THIS*...

THEY ARE SMALL, BUT WHEN THEY BITE, THEY TAKE A BIG OLD BLOODY CHUNK OF YOU WITH THEM.

I LIVE IN *NEW YORK*, HOME TO EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE. THERE ARE SEVERAL THOUSAND *COCKROACHES* FOR EVERY ONE *PERSON* IN THIS CITY. THAT MAKES HUMBUG THE MASTER OF THE WORLD'S MOST INCREDIBLE SPY NETWORK.

SURE HE'S *KINDA* CREEPY, BUT WHAT'S A BROTHER TO DO WHEN HIS POWER IS BUG-SPEAK?

ALL RIGHT, GIRLS. HE'S HAD ENOUGH.



THE *UNDISPUTED* DEADLIEST HANDS IN ALL OF *KUNG FU* BELONG TO *SHANG-CHI*. HIS NAME MEANS "THE RISING AND ADVANCING OF THE SPIRIT." PRETTY COOL, HUH?

HIS DADDY WAS A RUTHLESS *CRIME LORD* WHO KEPT HIS SON HIDDEN AWAY IN HUNAN, CHINA AND MADE SURE SHANG COULD *SHATTER BRICKS* BEFORE HE WAS OLD ENOUGH TO USE CHOPSTICKS.

YOU WERE GIVEN A SIMPLE CHOICE, WARFIST.

TURNING MYSELF OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES ISN'T A CHOICE. THE REGISTRATION IS GARBAGE AND YOU KNOW IT.

I DISAGREE. THE PROTECTION OF LIFE SHOULD BE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER HUMAN ENDEAVORS.



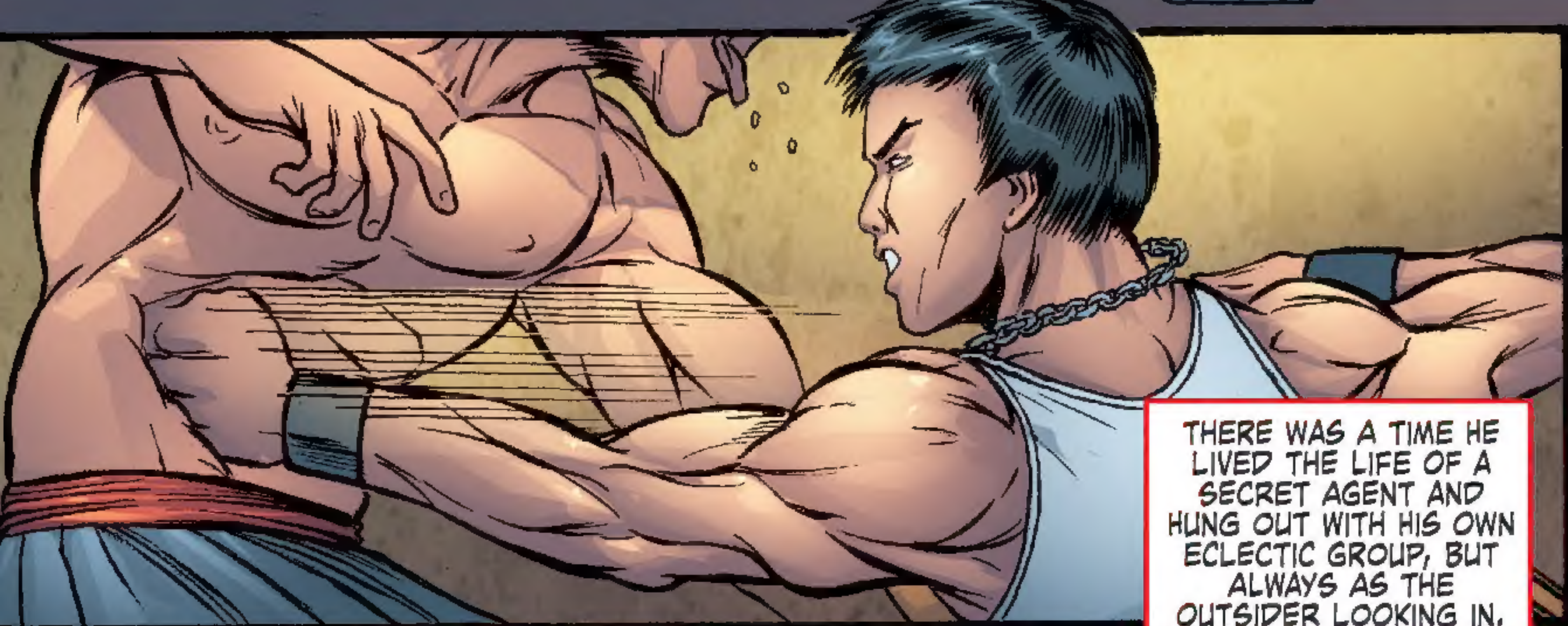
YOU KNOW ALL THAT CRAZY STUFF YOU SEE IN *KUNG FU MOVIES* WHERE THE WHITE-HAIRED OLD MASTER WITH THE BAD DUBBING CAN WALK ON WATER AND FLY FROM ROOF TO ROOF?

SHANG-CHI LIVED IT, CRUEL TUTELAGE AND ALL.

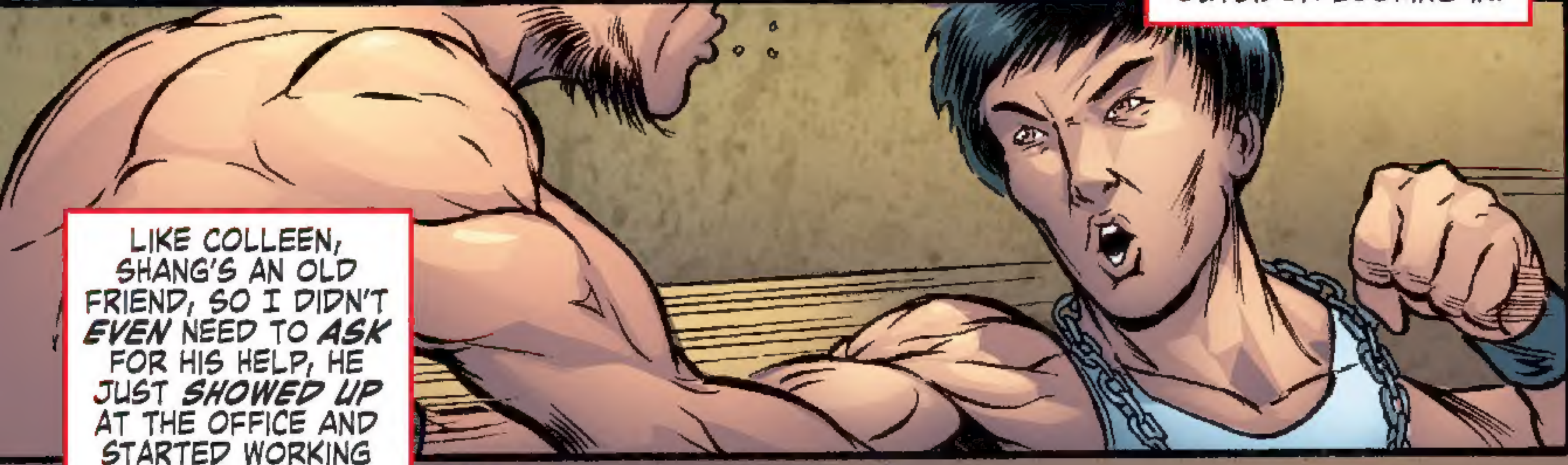
SORRY, NOT INTERESTED. I DRAW PLEASURE FROM ENDING LIFE!

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY YOU WILL FAIL.

GNHHAAA!



THERE WAS A TIME HE LIVED THE LIFE OF A SECRET AGENT AND HUNG OUT WITH HIS OWN ECLECTIC GROUP, BUT ALWAYS AS THE OUTSIDER LOOKING IN.



LIKE COLLEEN, SHANG'S AN OLD FRIEND, SO I DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO ASK FOR HIS HELP, HE JUST *SHOWED UP* AT THE OFFICE AND STARTED WORKING WITHOUT A WORD.



I KNOW THIS *CIVIL WAR* BUSINESS HAS HIM WORRIED JUST LIKE THE REST OF US *NON-POWERED* FOOLS MIXING IT UP WITH THE BIG GUNS. HIS WISDOM ALWAYS KEEPS HIS OPINION RESOLUTE, WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO ME.





THE ULTRA SEXY *LATINA* IN THE RED AND BLACK FORMFITTING COSTUME SAYS SHE'S *MARIA VASQUEZ* A.K.A.--THE *TARANTULA*.

FROM WHAT I CAN TELL SO FAR, SHE'S GOOD WITH *BLADES* AND SHE'S ALL ABOUT THE MIXED MARTIAL ARTS AND GRACIE JIJITSU FIGHTING STYLE.

LIKE HUMBUG, SHE'S A *WILD CARD* AND ALTHOUGH I'VE DONE SOME DEEP DIGGING INTO HER PAST...WELL, DO YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT I FOUND...?

NOTHING. ZIP. IT'S AS IF SHE JUST *APPEARED* OUT OF THIN AIR.

THIS IS HER FIRST TIME IN THE FIELD WITH US AND I STILL DON'T KNOW IF I CAN *TRUST* HER...BUT I'VE GOT A *PLAN* FOR SOLVING THAT PROBLEM *LATER*.

MY NAME IS **MISTY KNIGHT**. THIS IS THE STATE OF THE WORLD. IF YOU WEAR A **COSTUME**, YOU HAVE TO **REGISTER** WITH THE GOVERNMENT. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS OR ONE OF THE BAD.

THEY'RE CALLING IT A **CIVIL WAR** WITH A SPLIT RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE OF THE **BIGGEST NAMES** IN THE HERO BUSINESS. **IRON MAN** RUNS ONE SIDE AND **CAPTAIN AMERICA** HAS GONE TO GROUND WITH THE RESISTANCE.

YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE! NO WAY AM I GETTING PUNKED BY A BLACK CHICK WITH A BIONIC ARM!

KEEP TALKING TRASH, FOUNDRY. I DON'T MIND.

I'M GOING TO ROAST YOU ALIVE AND PICK THE MEAT FROM YOUR BONES.

CAP AND IRON MAN ARE BOTH MY FRIENDS.

YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT ROASTING?

I'M BLINDED!

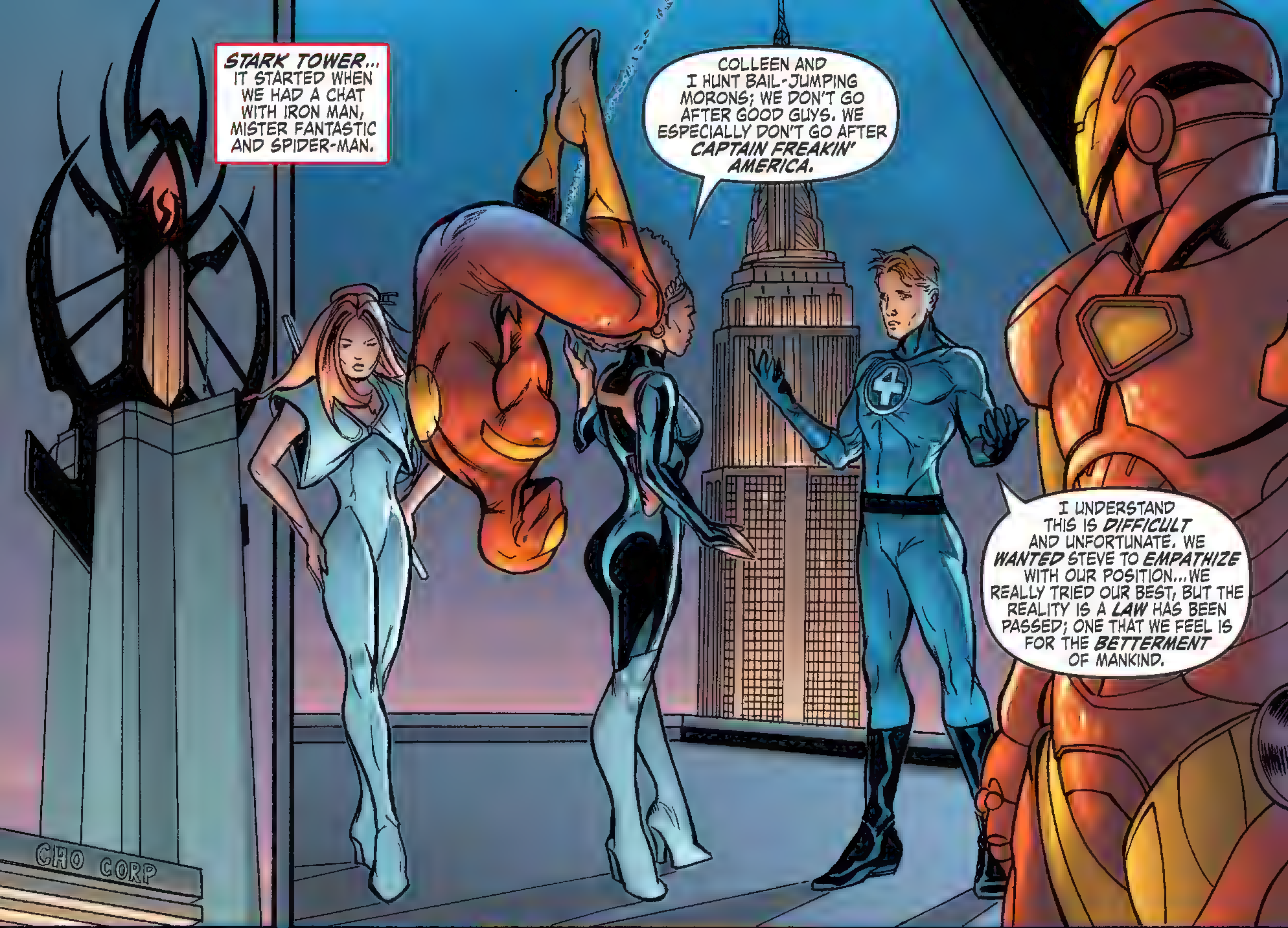
I'LL WARN YOU THEN...

TONY STARK--**IRON MAN** HIMSELF--BUILT MY **BIONIC ARM**, BUT ITS LIKE GETTING IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT BETWEEN YOUR OLDER BROTHERS--YOU CAN'T TAKE SIDES, ALL YOU CAN DO IS GIVE THEM ADVICE AND HOPE THEY CAN EVENTUALLY WORK IT OUT.

HERE IT COMES!

THIS BRINGS ME TO THE POINT...

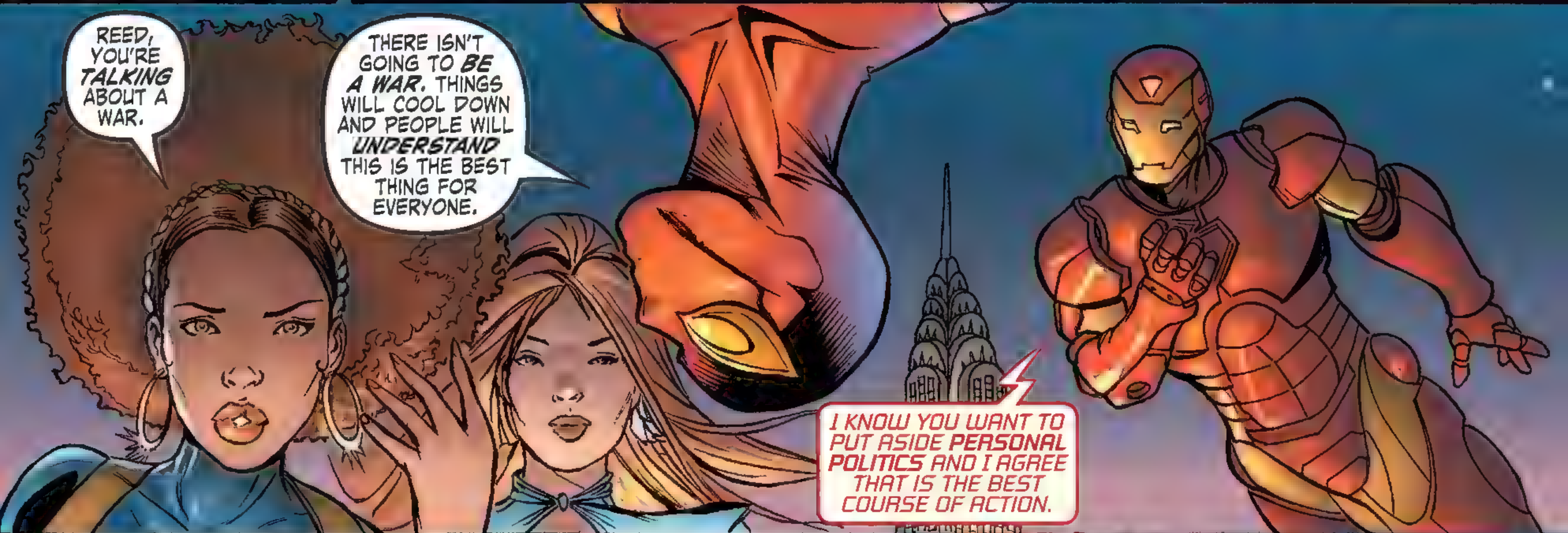
...ONE WEEK AGO WE SHIFTED OUR FOCUS FROM BEING BAIL BONDSWOMEN TO GOVERNMENT AGENTS.



STARK TOWER... IT STARTED WHEN WE HAD A CHAT WITH IRON MAN, MISTER FANTASTIC AND SPIDER-MAN.

COLLEEN AND I HUNT BAIL-JUMPING MORONS; WE DON'T GO AFTER GOOD GUYS. WE ESPECIALLY DON'T GO AFTER CAPTAIN FREAKIN' AMERICA.

I UNDERSTAND THIS IS DIFFICULT AND UNFORTUNATE. WE WANTED STEVE TO EMPATHIZE WITH OUR POSITION...WE REALLY TRIED OUR BEST, BUT THE REALITY IS A LAW HAS BEEN PASSED; ONE THAT WE FEEL IS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND.



REED, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A WAR.

THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE A WAR. THINGS WILL COOL DOWN AND PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND THIS IS THE BEST THING FOR EVERYONE.

I KNOW YOU WANT TO PUT ASIDE PERSONAL POLITICS AND I AGREE THAT IS THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION.



LOOK, EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'VE GOT THE CONNECTIONS ON BOTH SIDES AND YOU CAN FIND ANYONE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. ALL WE'RE ASKING IS THAT YOU SHIFT YOUR FOCUS TO BRINGING IN PEOPLE THAT REFUSE TO REGISTER.

INCLUDING OUR FRIENDS?

THAT'S A CHOICE NO ONE WANTS TO MAKE.

THE CHOICE IS MADE. WE'RE ONLY GOING AFTER THE BLACK HATS.



DO YOU AT LEAST SEE WHERE WE'RE COMING FROM?

PETE, YOU'RE KINDA CREEPING ME OUT RIGHT NOW.

I REMEMBER WHEN YOU USED TO WEB UP THE BAD GUYS AND THAT WAS ALL THAT MATTERED.

SEEING CHILDREN INCINERATED HAS A WAY OF CHANGING A PERSON'S OUTLOOK.



WHICH IS THE NUMBER ONE REASON I'M ALL FOR THE REGISTRATION, BUT...

THE SITUATION MAKES US NERVOUS, AND WE DON'T DO NERVOUS.

WE'RE
SUPER HEROES,
MISTY.

WE TACKLE
SUPER-CRIME
AND WE SAVE
PEOPLE'S LIVES.

THE ONLY
THING CHANGING
IS THAT WE'RE
FINALLY WEEDING
OUT THE KIDS, THE
AMATEURS, AND
THE SOCIOPATHS.

WE'RE NOT
SUPER HEROES.
SO WHY WOULD
YOU WANT US
INVOLVED?

TO PUT
A HUMAN
FACE ON THE
SITUATION.

I'M NOT A
POSTER CHILD OR
SPOKESMODEL,
SPIDEY.

STAMFORD
MADE YOU LOOK
BAD AND NOW YOU'RE
TRYING TO PUT A
POSITIVE SPIN
ON IT.

MAYBE IT
WAS UNWISE TO
ASK YOU TO COME
ONBOARD.

BECAUSE WE
HAVE REASONABLE
CONCERNS AND
WE'RE NOT AFRAID
TO SAY IT?

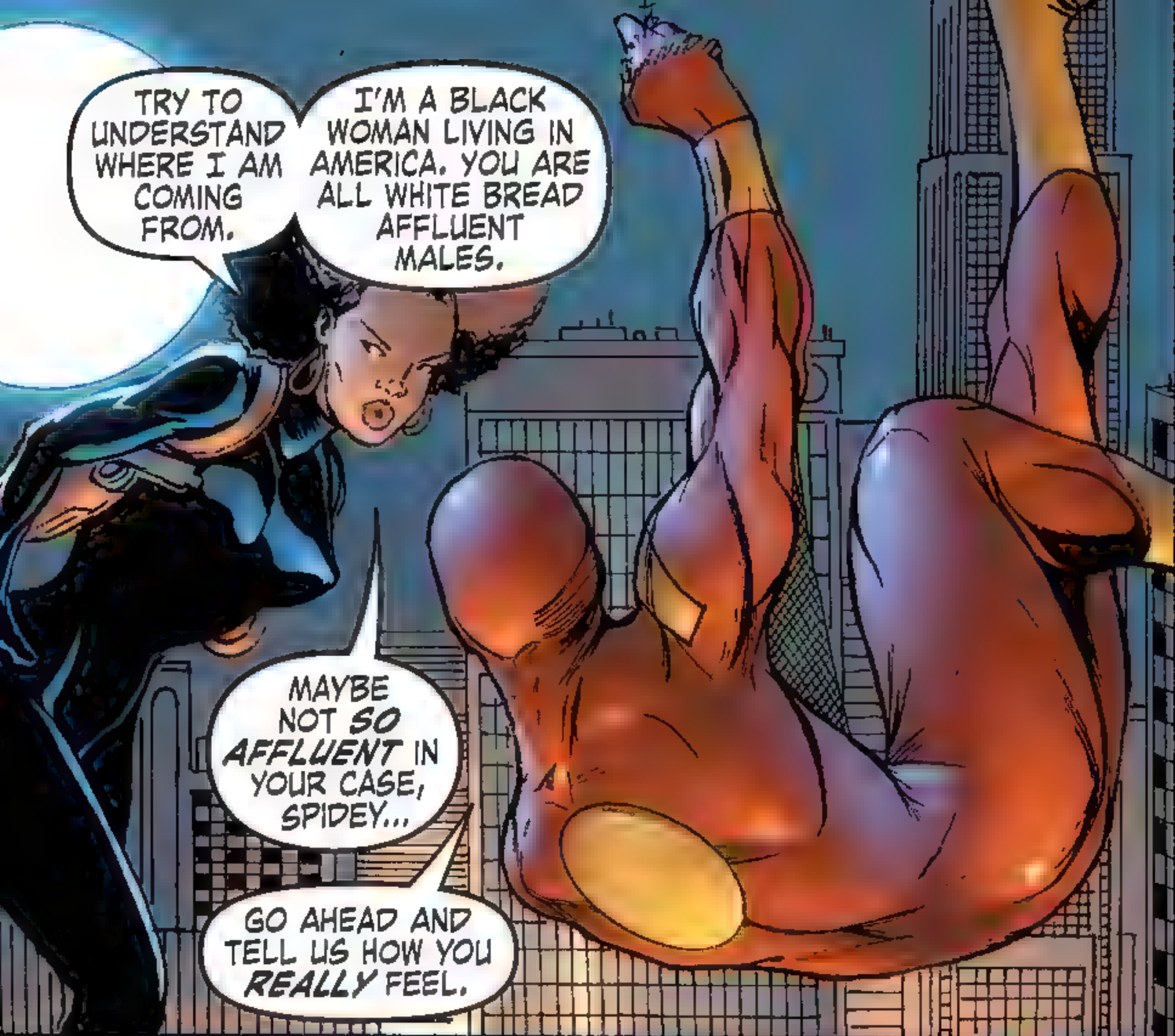
DID I WAKE
UP IN CHINA THIS
MORNING?

YOU'RE BEING
EXTREME IN YOUR
COMPARISON.

LOOK, THE
REGISTRATION
THING'S A GREAT IDEA.
I CAN DIG IT...

BUT A GOVERNMENTAL
KNEE-JERK REACTION TO A
HORRIBLE TRAGEDY MAY
LEAD TO EVEN BIGGER
PROBLEMS.

OKAY, SO DO YOU
WANT TO DEBATE THE
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
IMPLICATIONS?

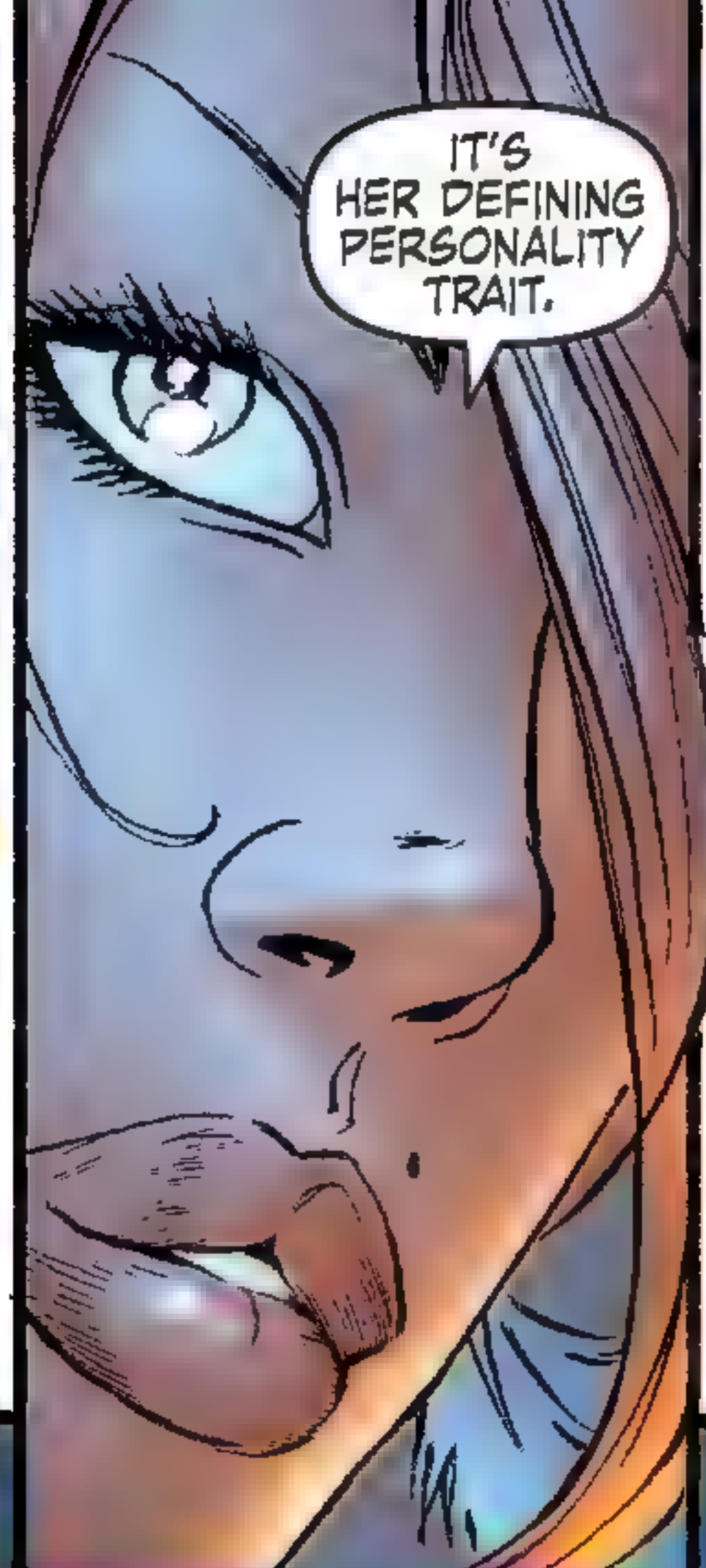


TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHERE I AM COMING FROM.

I'M A BLACK WOMAN LIVING IN AMERICA. YOU ARE ALL WHITE BREAD AFFLUENT MALES.

MAYBE NOT *SO* AFFLUENT IN YOUR CASE, SPIDEY...

GO AHEAD AND TELL US HOW YOU *REALLY* FEEL.



IT'S HER DEFINING PERSONALITY TRAIT.

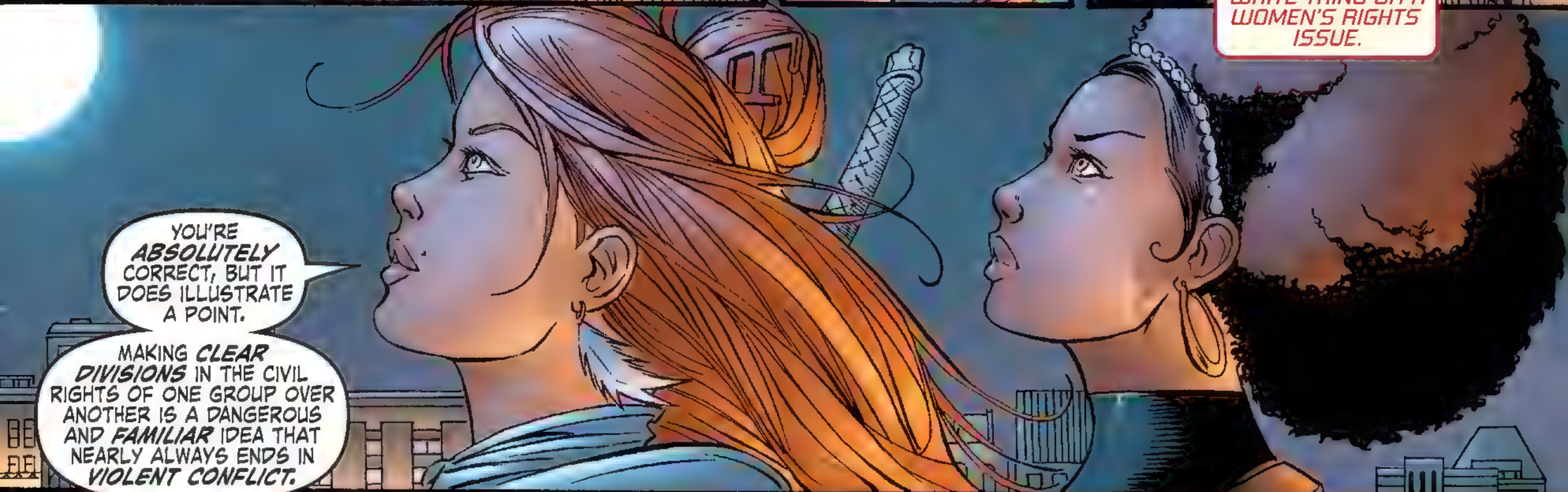


NOT TO GET ALL "MY PEOPLE" BUT...

SLAVERY DIDN'T END UNTIL 1865.

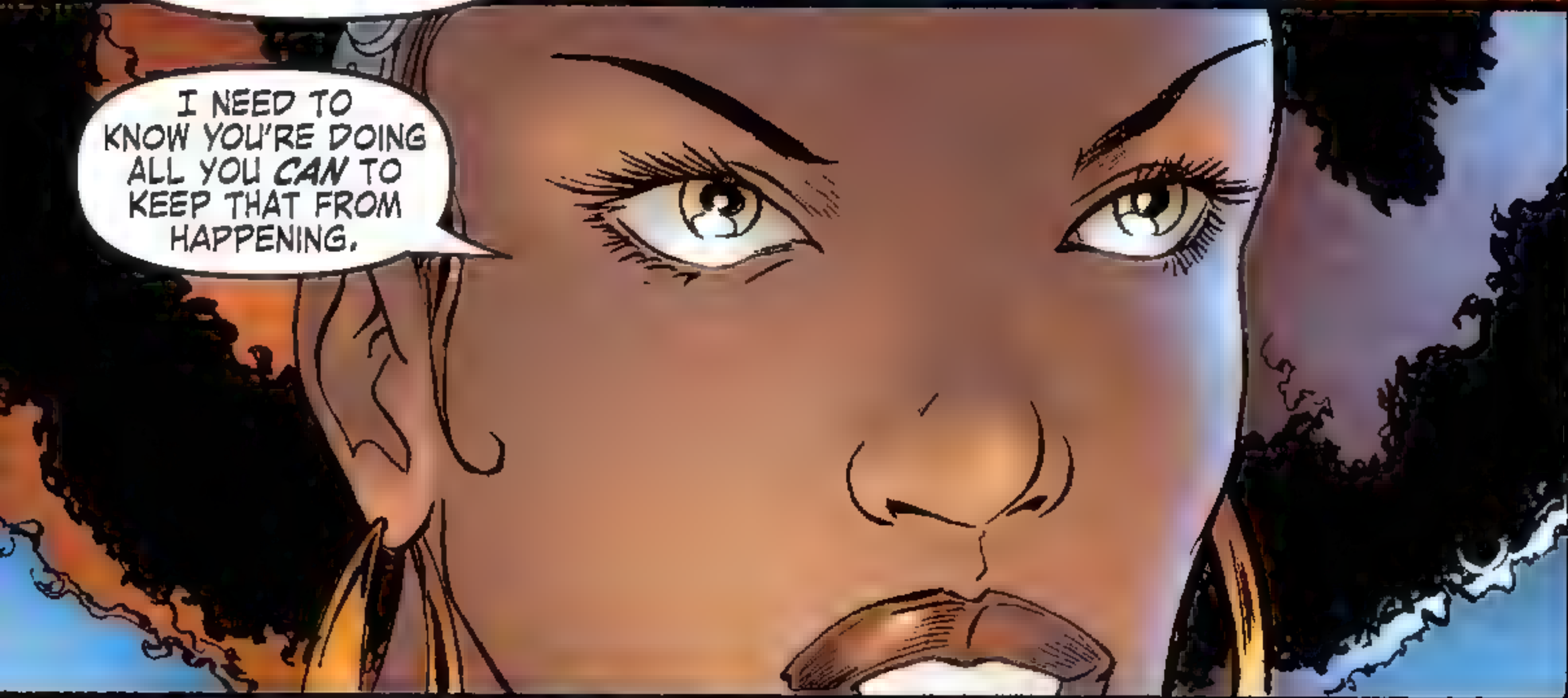
SUSAN B. ANTHONY REGISTERED AND VOTED IN THE 1872 ELECTION AND WAS **ARRESTED** FOR KNOWINGLY, WRONGFULLY AND UNLAWFULLY VOTING FOR A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

IT'S 2006. THIS ISN'T A BLACK-AND-WHITE THING OR A WOMEN'S RIGHTS ISSUE.



YOU'RE **ABSOLUTELY** CORRECT, BUT IT DOES ILLUSTRATE A POINT.

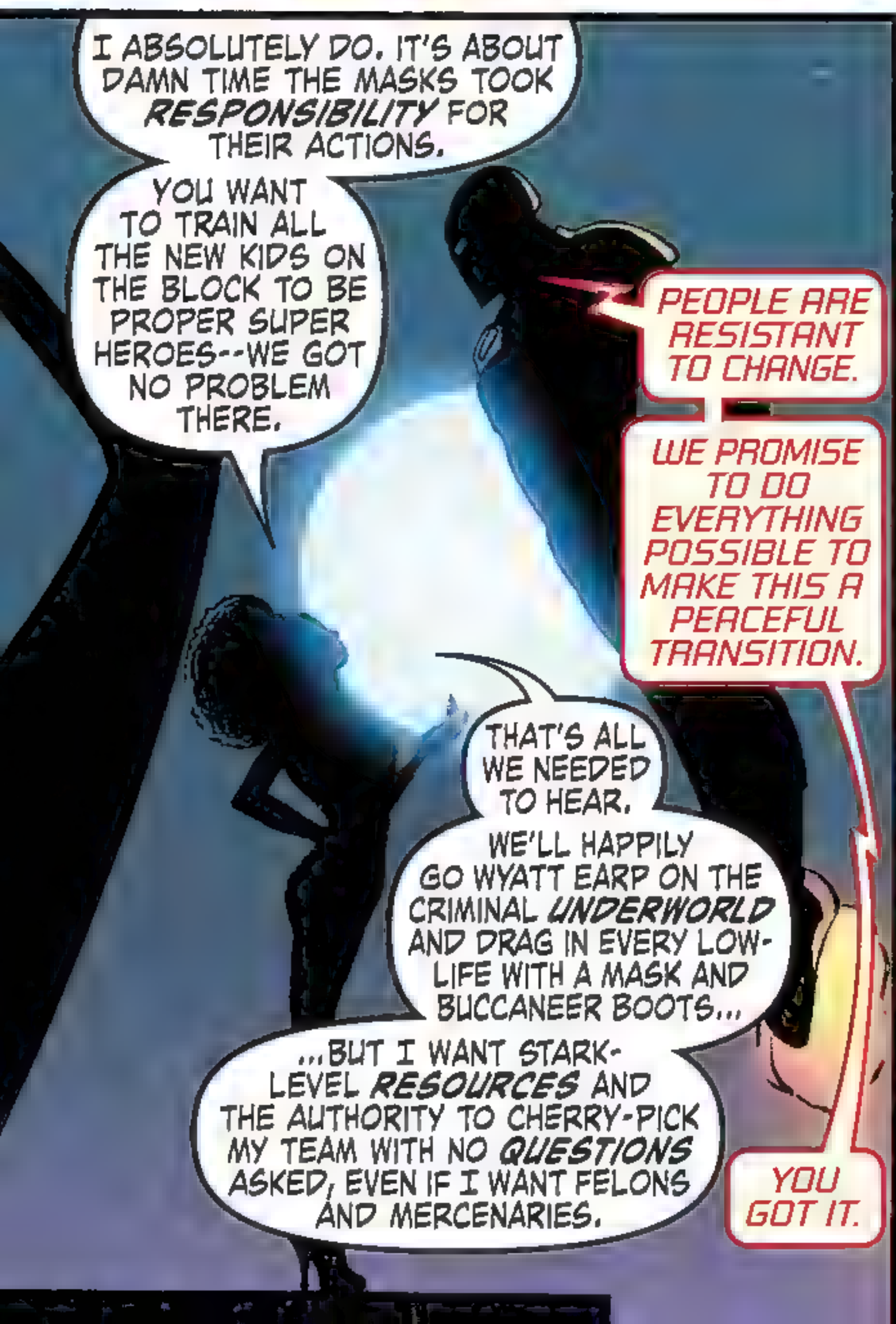
MAKING **CLEAR DIVISIONS** IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF ONE GROUP OVER ANOTHER IS A DANGEROUS AND **FAMILIAR** IDEA THAT NEARLY ALWAYS ENDS IN **VIOLENT CONFLICT**.



I NEED TO KNOW YOU'RE DOING ALL YOU *CAN* TO KEEP THAT FROM HAPPENING.



MISTY, YOU WERE A COP. YOU UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR CIVIL ORDER AND LAWS.



I ABSOLUTELY DO. IT'S ABOUT DAMN TIME THE MASKS TOOK **RESPONSIBILITY** FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

YOU WANT TO TRAIN ALL THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK TO BE PROPER SUPER HEROES--WE GOT NO PROBLEM THERE.

PEOPLE ARE **RESISTANT TO CHANGE**.

WE PROMISE TO DO **EVERYTHING POSSIBLE** TO MAKE THIS A **PEACEFUL TRANSITION**.

THAT'S ALL WE NEEDED TO HEAR.

WE'LL HAPPILY GO WYATT EARP ON THE CRIMINAL **UNDERWORLD** AND DRAG IN EVERY LOW-LIFE WITH A MASK AND BUCCANEER BOOTS...

...BUT I WANT STARK-LEVEL **RESOURCES** AND THE AUTHORITY TO CHERRY-PICK MY TEAM WITH NO **QUESTIONS** ASKED, EVEN IF I WANT FELONS AND MERCENARIES.

YOU GOT IT.

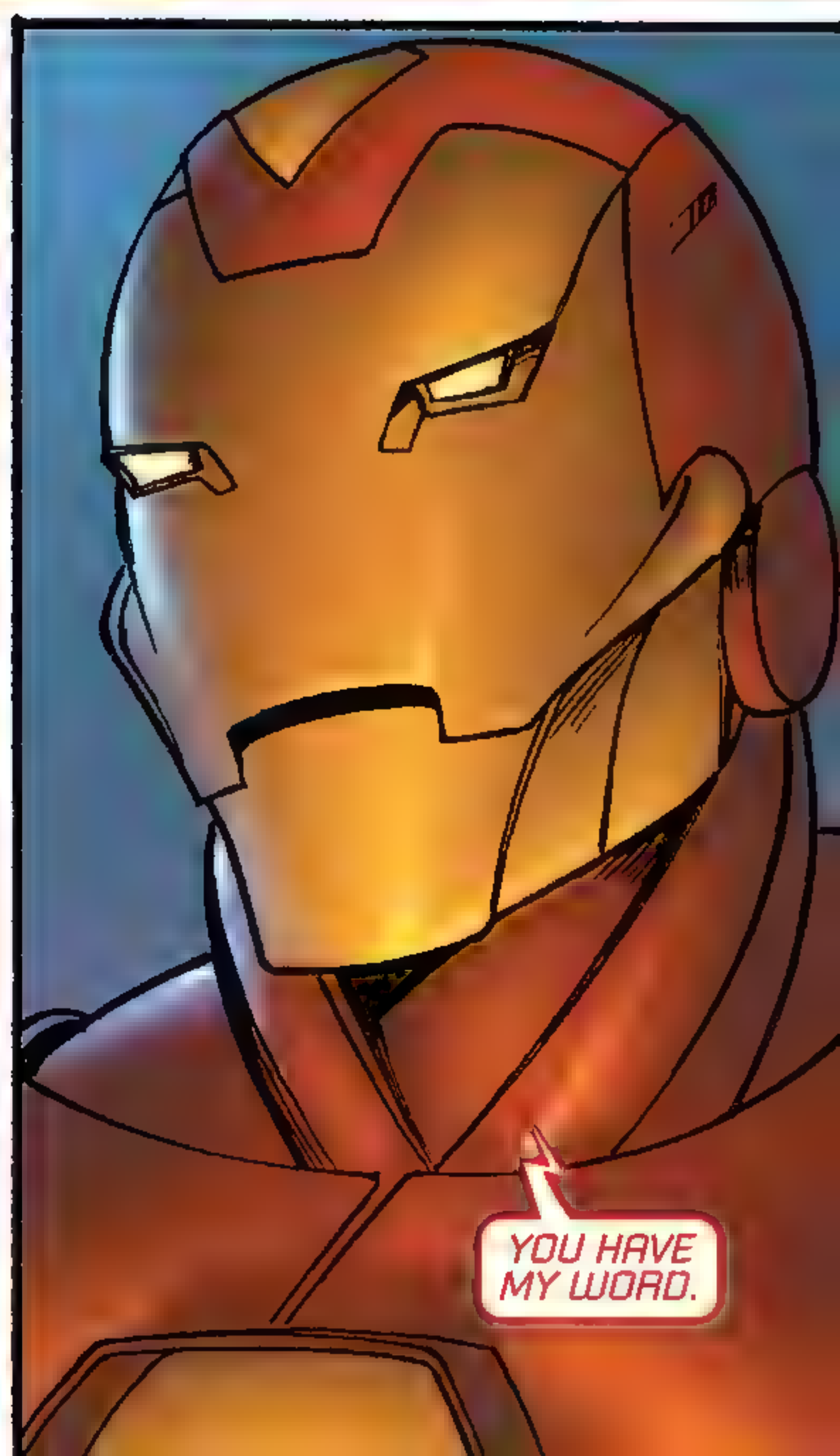


ONE MORE THING. AND THIS IS **IMPORTANT**, SO PAY ATTENTION. YOU *KNOW ME* AND YOU KNOW WHAT *KIND* OF WOMAN *I AM*.

IF I SAY WE'RE WITH YOU, THEN THAT'S THAT, ONE HUNDRED PERCENT, BUT I BETTER DAMN WELL HAVE YOUR WORD THAT *WHEN* THINGS GO BAD...

...AND BELIEVE ME, THEY *WILL* GO BAD...

...YOU'LL STILL BE THE MEN I **TRUST AND RESPECT**.



YOU HAVE MY WORD.

CHINATOWN, NOW...

SO HERE WE ARE, BACK AT HOME BASE BELOW CANAL STREET, WHERE THE NIGHT BEGINS WITH TARANTULA SAYING...

WHO'S NEXT?

MY GIRL IS ALWAYS CHOMPING AT THE BIT.

I LIKE THAT KIND OF INITIATIVE.

YOU KNOW, I NEVER REALIZED HOW COOL IT IS TO BE ON THE *OTHER SIDE* OF THE LAW. OF COURSE, *ANYTHING* IS BETTER THAN ROTTING IN A JAIL CELL WORRYING ABOUT MIDNIGHT NUPTIAL VISITS FROM QUESTIONABLE CHARACTERS.

I'M EATING HERE...

HUMBUG, NO MORE PRISON STORIES.

GOD, NO.

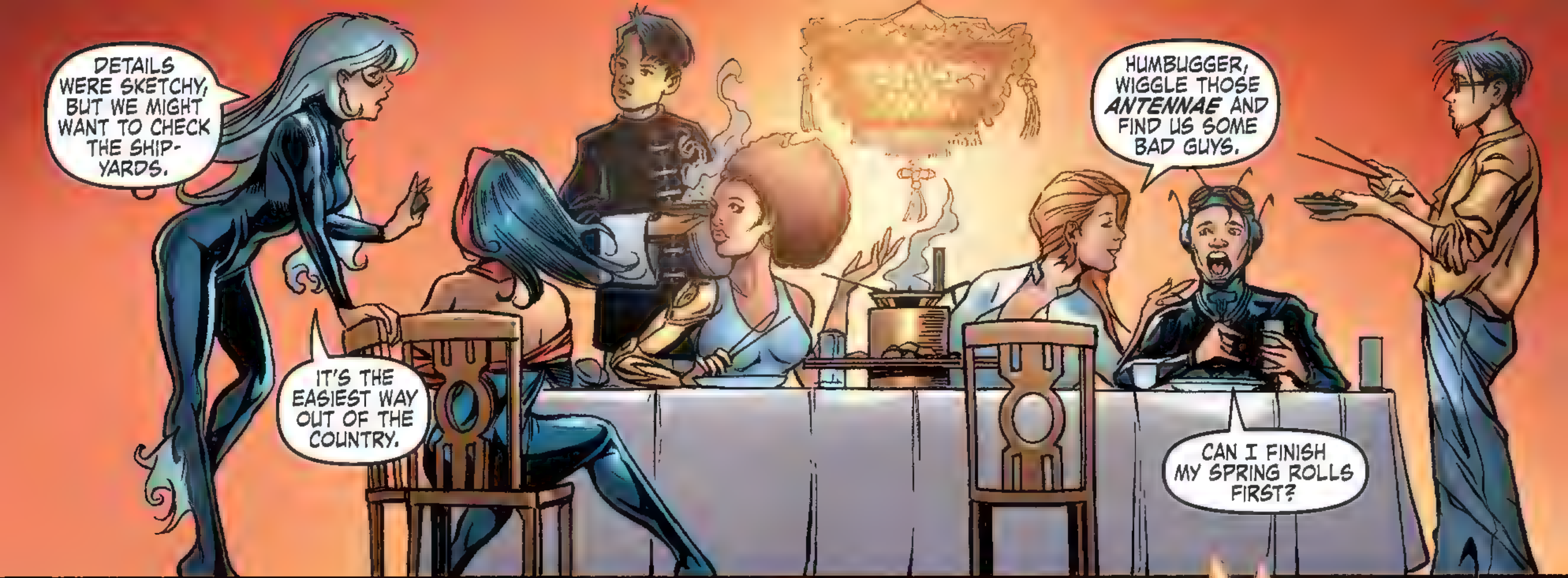
SHUT UP, OTIS.

THERE BETTER BE SOME KUNG PAO CHICKEN LEFT. I'M STARVING.

HELLO, BLACK CAT, HOW WAS THE RECONNAISSANCE MISSION?



WORD 'ROUND THE CAMPFIRE IS AN OLD NEMESIS OF YOURS BY THE NAME OF VIENNA IS RUNNING A FAKE I.D. RING FOR SUPER FELONS LOOKING TO GO UNDERGROUND OR LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

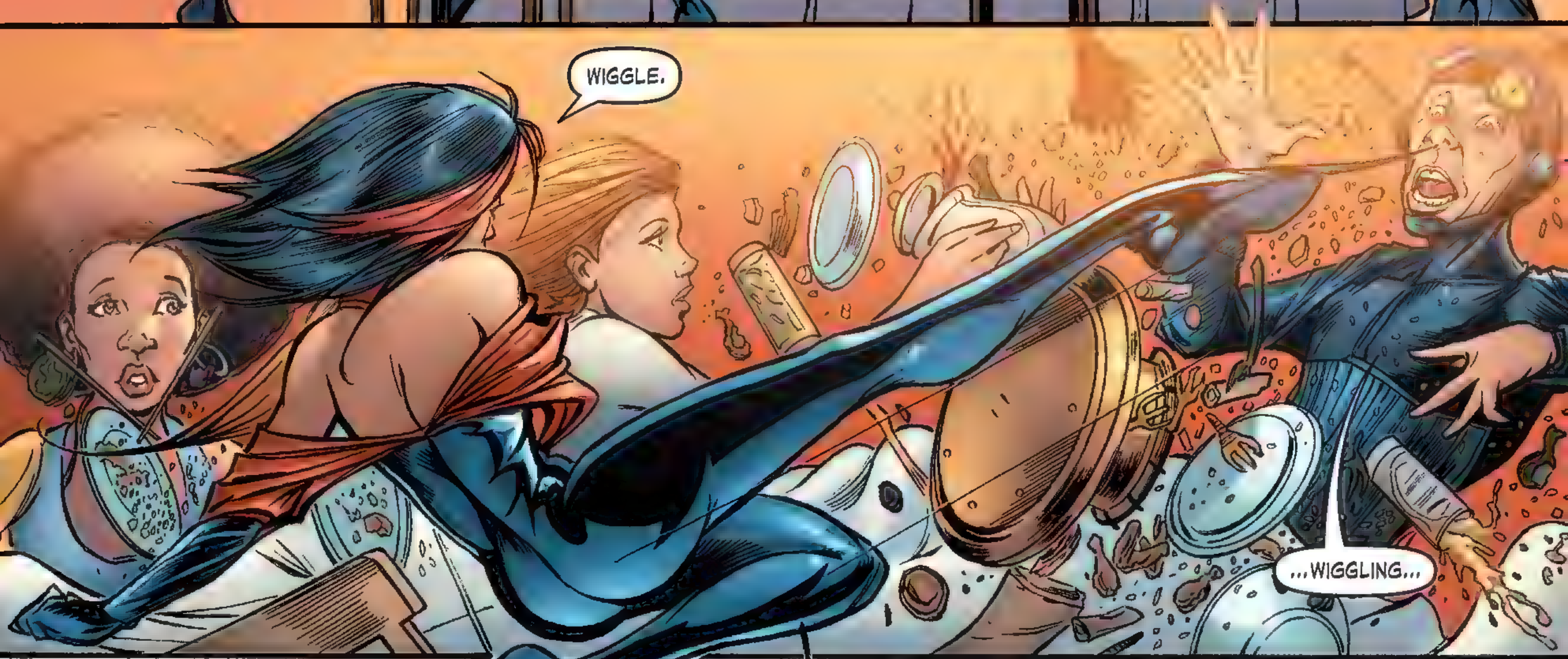


DETAILS WERE SKETCHY, BUT WE MIGHT WANT TO CHECK THE SHIP-YARDS.

IT'S THE EASIEST WAY OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

HUMBUGGER, WIGGLE THOSE ANTENNAE AND FIND US SOME BAD GUYS.

CAN I FINISH MY SPRING ROLLS FIRST?



WIGGLE.

...WIGGLING...



"TAPPING INTO THE HIVE MIND... BEAR WITH ME A SECOND, SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO HEAR OVER THE WHITE NOISE OF MAGGOTS..."



"HMNN... DEAD RATS, SQUALOR, PROSTITUTION AND DRUG DEALERS... THIS LOOKS PROMISING."

"LADIES, GET READY
TO BE HAPPY."

THIS
IS A CASH
TRANSACTION
ONLY.

THE PACKAGE
INCLUDES NEW I.D.'S,
PASSPORTS, DRIVER'S LICENSES,
PLANE TICKETS TO THE COUNTRY
OF OUR *CHOICE*, AND AS A
SPECIAL *INCENTIVE* WE'LL EVEN
THROW IN A COMPLIMENTARY
COCKTAIL AND IN-FLIGHT
MOVIE.

HEY,
SHOCKWAVE, IS
THAT GRINDHOUSE?
I THOUGHT SHE
RETIRED.

MAN, I DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHAT'S
UP WITH HALF THE
PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM,
GOLDBUG.

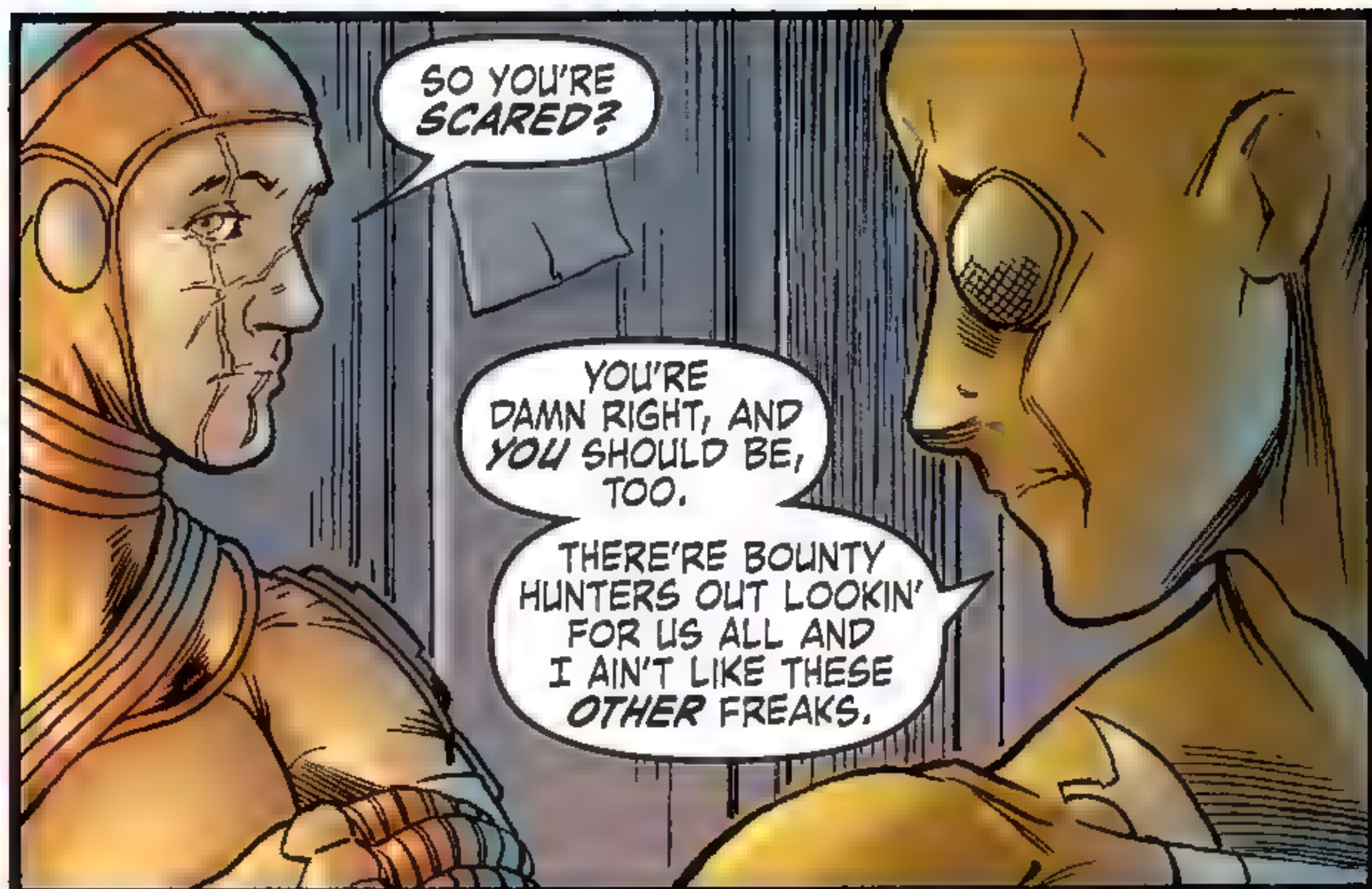
MOST OF
THEM AREN'T *ACTIVE*
AND YET HERE THEY ARE
LIKE *SCARED RATS*
LOOKING TO JUMP
SHIP.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

I'M
PICKING
UP FOR A
BUDDY.

RIIIGHT. ME,
I'M LOOKING TO
GO INTERNATIONAL.
YOU GOTTA BE NUTS TO
WEAR A COSTUME IN
NEW YORK.

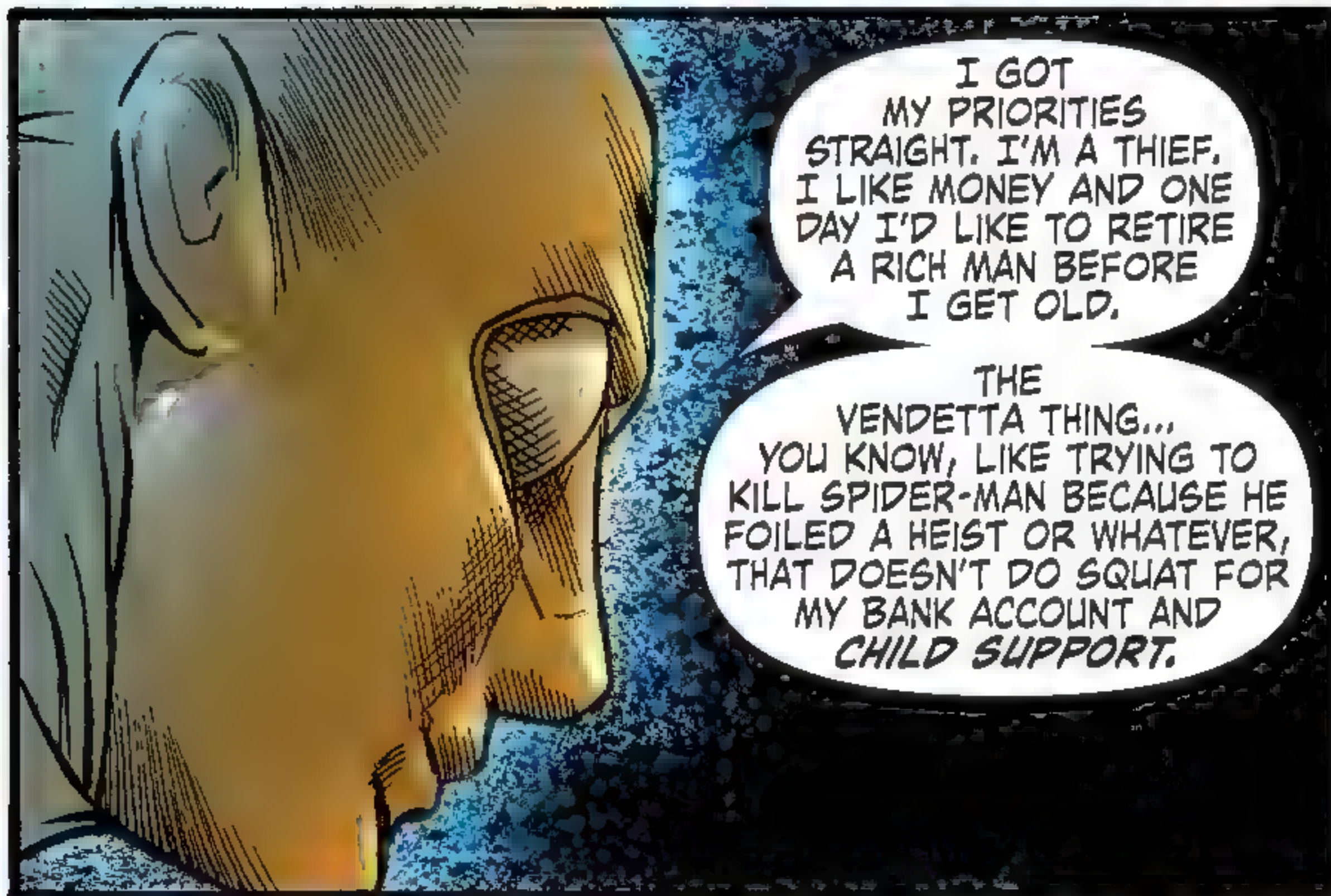
IT AIN'T LIKE
THE OLD DAYS, MAN.
PEOPLE ARE DISAPPEARING
OFF THE STREETS; I MEAN BIG
NAMES LIKE THE GREEN GOBLIN
AND VENOM, GUYS THAT NO
ONE GOES LOOKING FOR
ON PURPOSE.



SO YOU'RE SCARED?

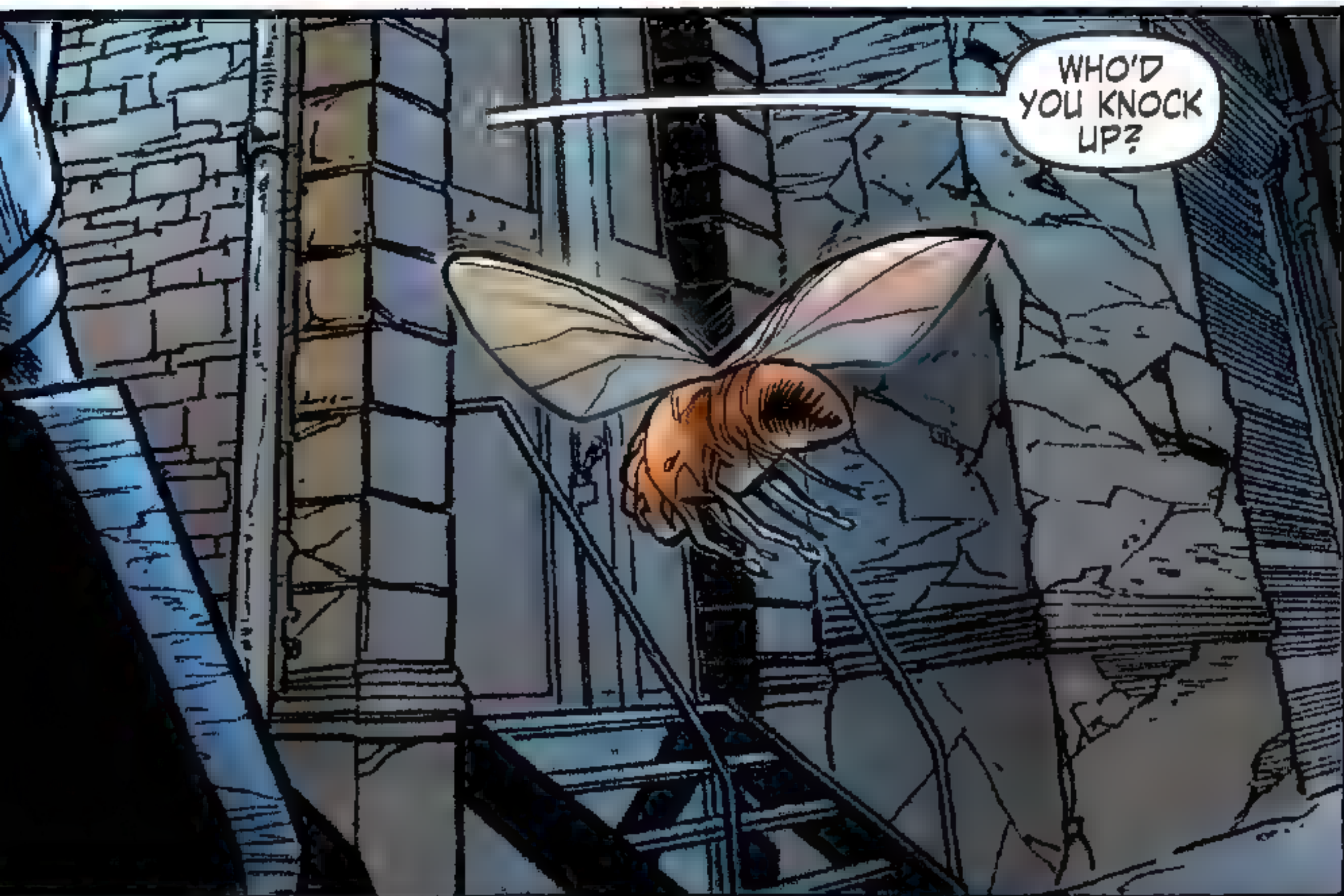
YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT, AND YOU SHOULD BE, TOO.

THERE'RE BOUNTY HUNTERS OUT LOOKIN' FOR US ALL AND I AIN'T LIKE THESE OTHER FREAKS.

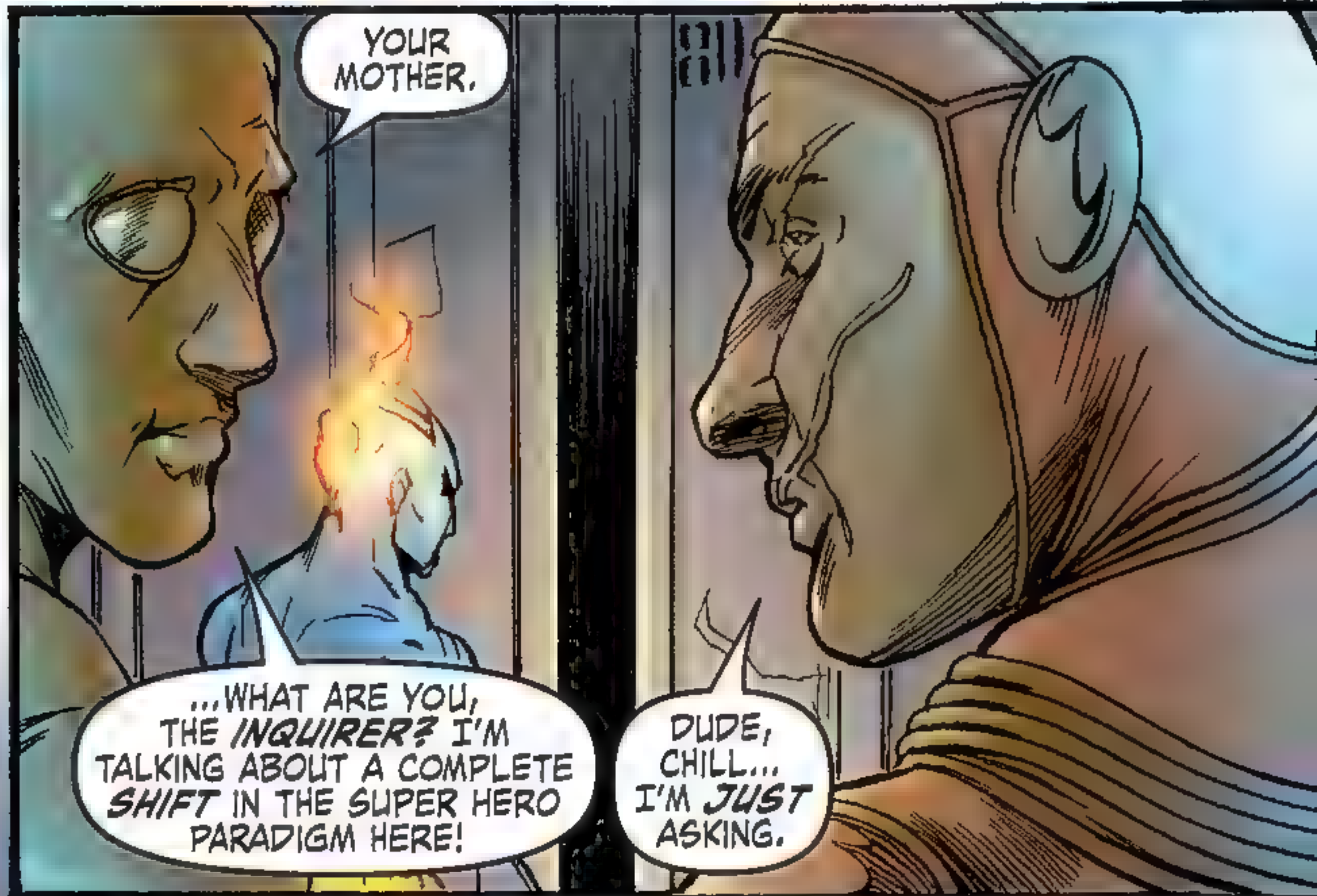


I GOT MY PRIORITIES STRAIGHT. I'M A THIEF. I LIKE MONEY AND ONE DAY I'D LIKE TO RETIRE A RICH MAN BEFORE I GET OLD.

THE VENDETTA THING... YOU KNOW, LIKE TRYING TO KILL SPIDER-MAN BECAUSE HE FOILED A HEIST OR WHATEVER, THAT DOESN'T DO SQUAT FOR MY BANK ACCOUNT AND CHILD SUPPORT.



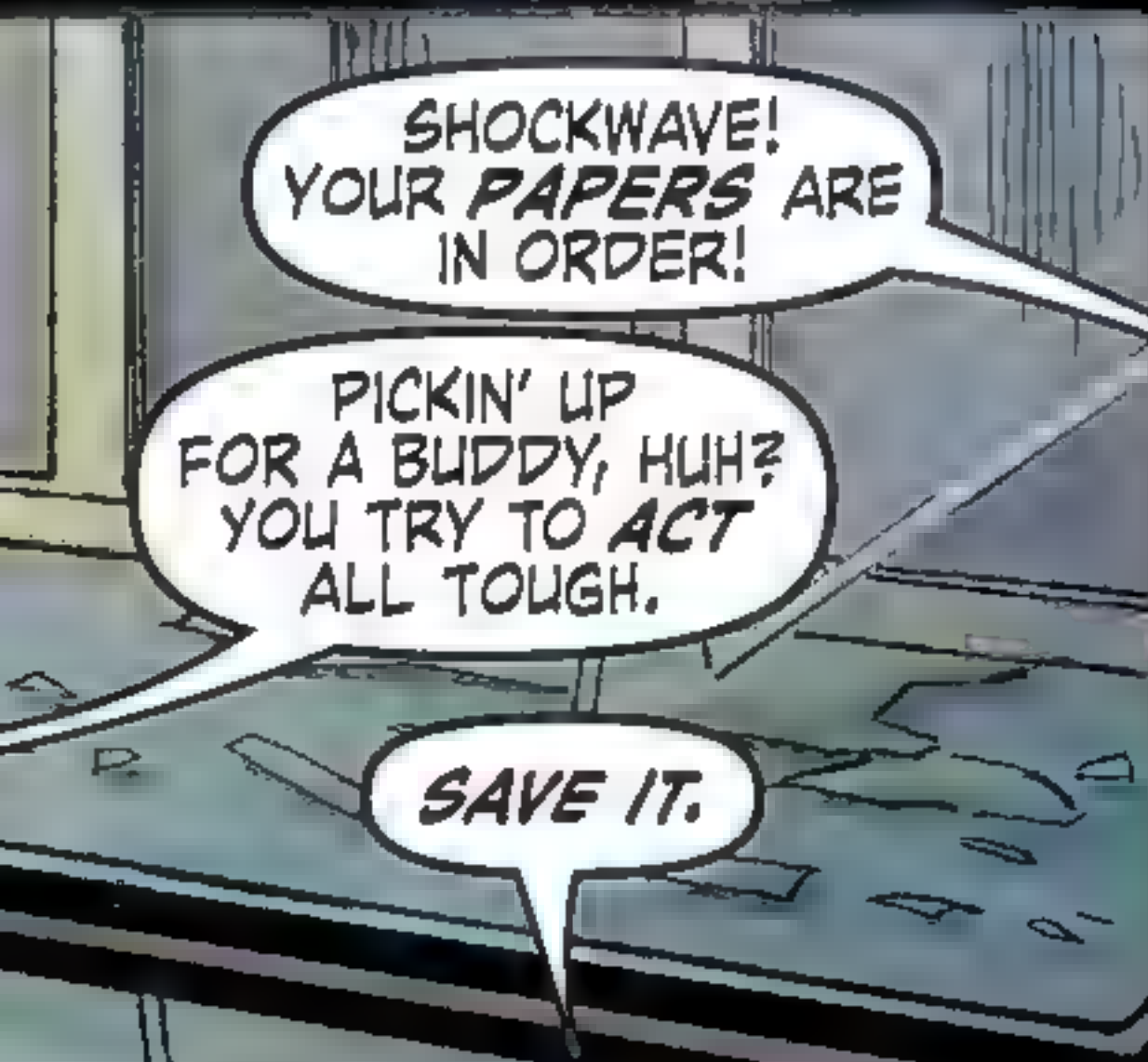
WHO'D YOU KNOCK UP?



YOUR MOTHER.

...WHAT ARE YOU, THE *INQUIRER*? I'M TALKING ABOUT A COMPLETE *SHIFT* IN THE SUPER HERO PARADIGM HERE!

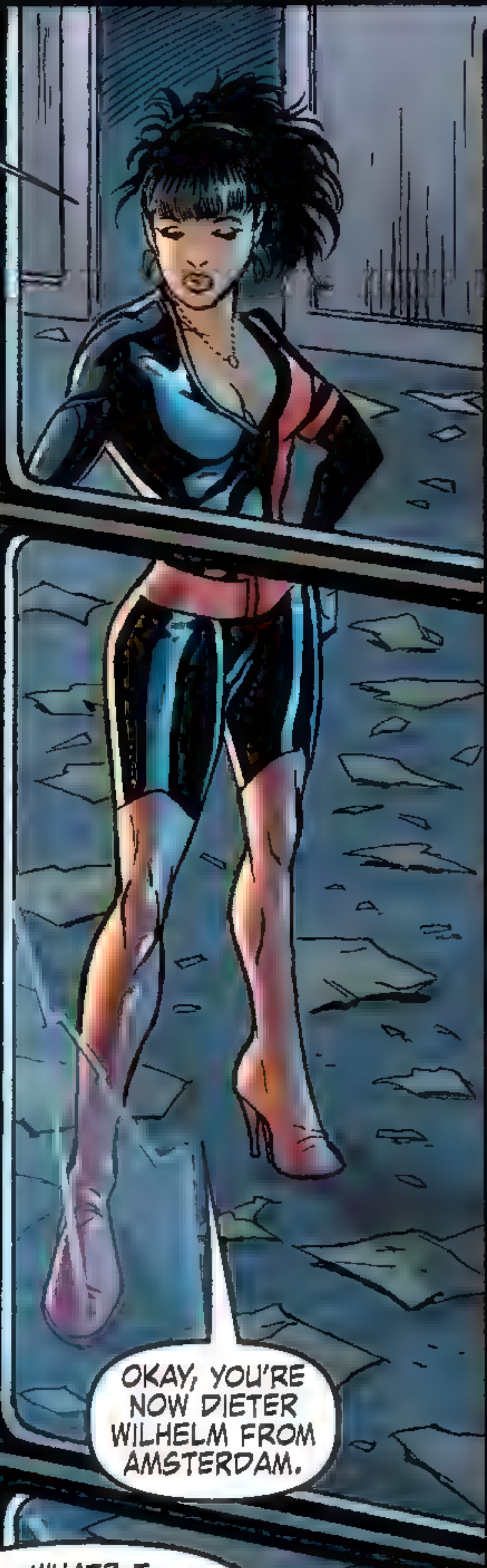
DUDE, CHILL... I'M JUST ASKING.



SHOCKWAVE! YOUR *PAPERS* ARE IN ORDER!

PICKIN' UP FOR A BUDDY, HUH? YOU TRY TO ACT ALL TOUGH.

SAVE IT.

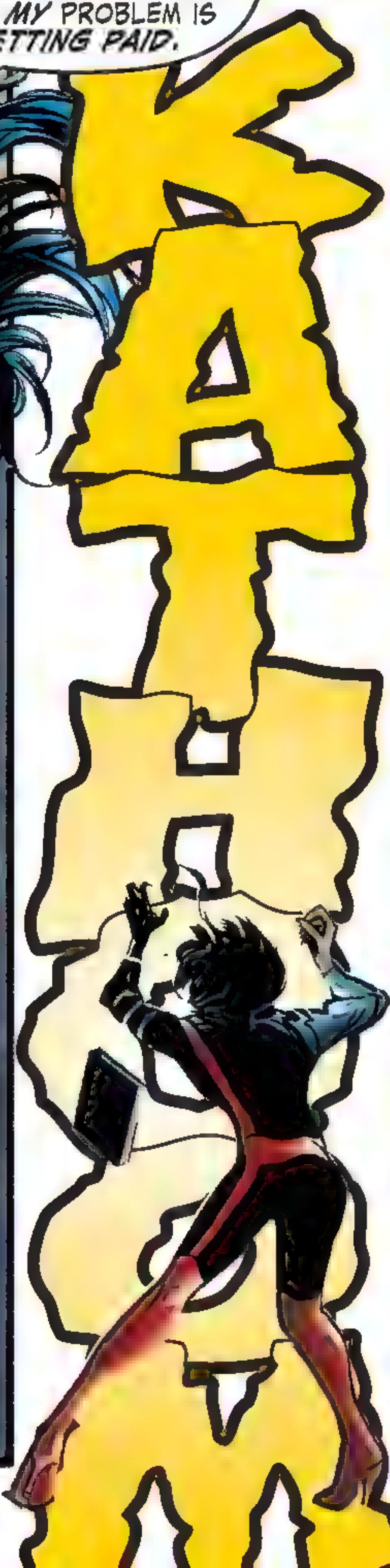


OKAY, YOU'RE NOW DIETER WILHELM FROM AMSTERDAM.

WHAT? I SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR AMERICAN STATUS. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE MOVING TO AUSTIN, TEXAS!



BEGGARS CAN'T BE *CHOOSERS*. SHOCKWAVE, YOU WANT TO END UP IN JAIL ALONG WITH THE OTHER LOSERS, THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM. RIGHT NOW MY PROBLEM IS GETTING PAID.





YOUR
PROBLEMS
JUST GOT A
LOT WORSE,
VIENNA!



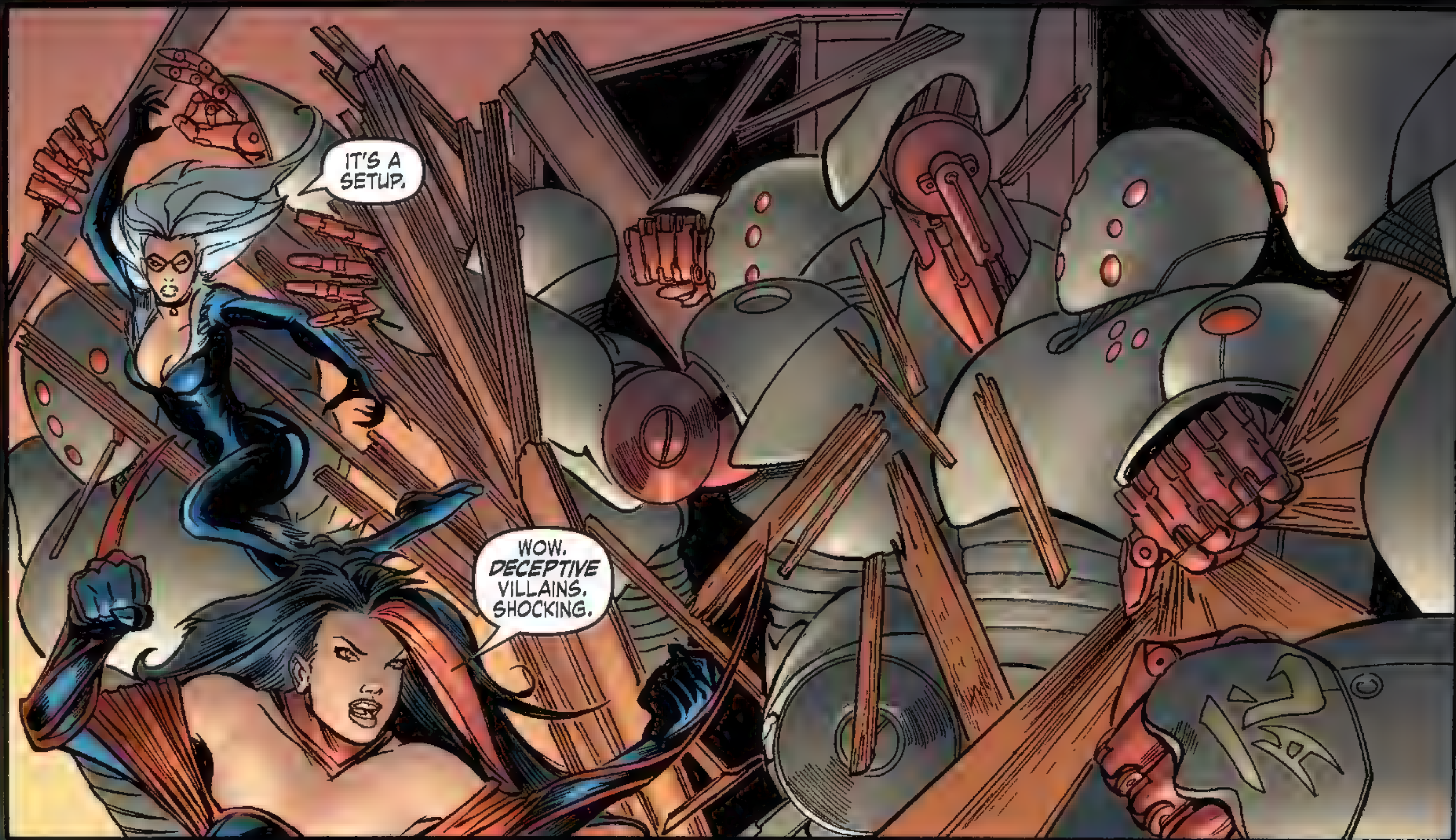
MISTY KNIGHT
AND HER KUNG FU
PLAYMATES.

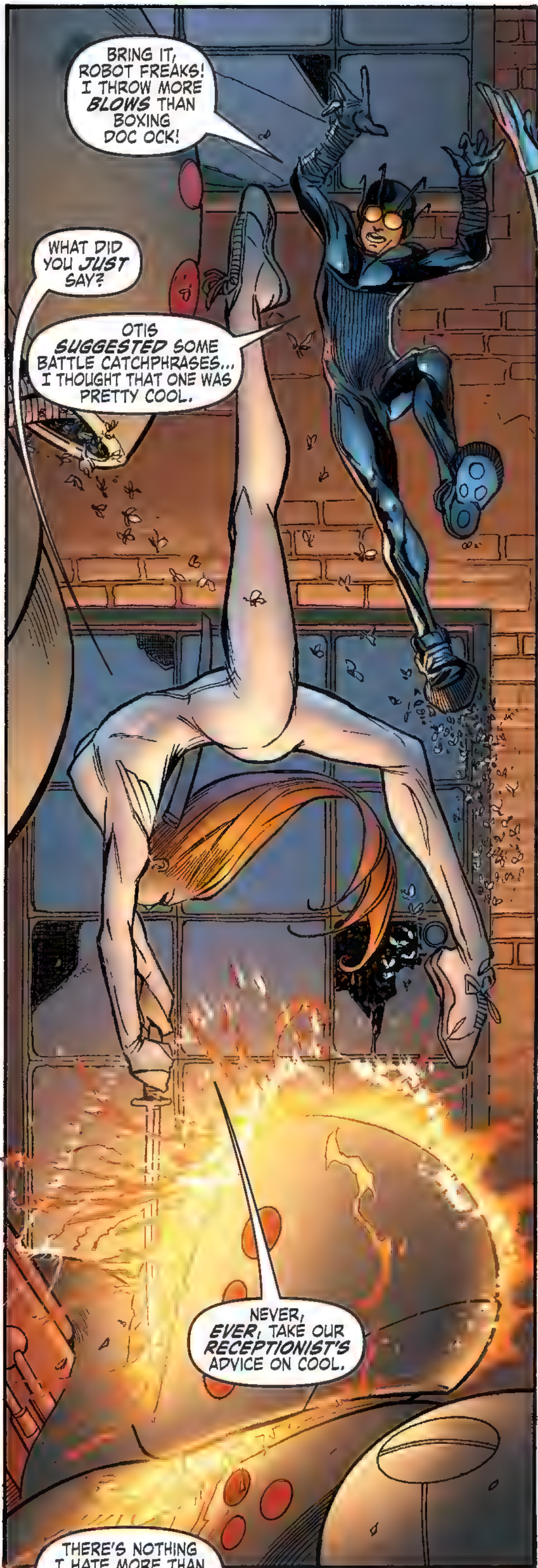
WHAT THE
HELL ARE THEY
DOING HERE?

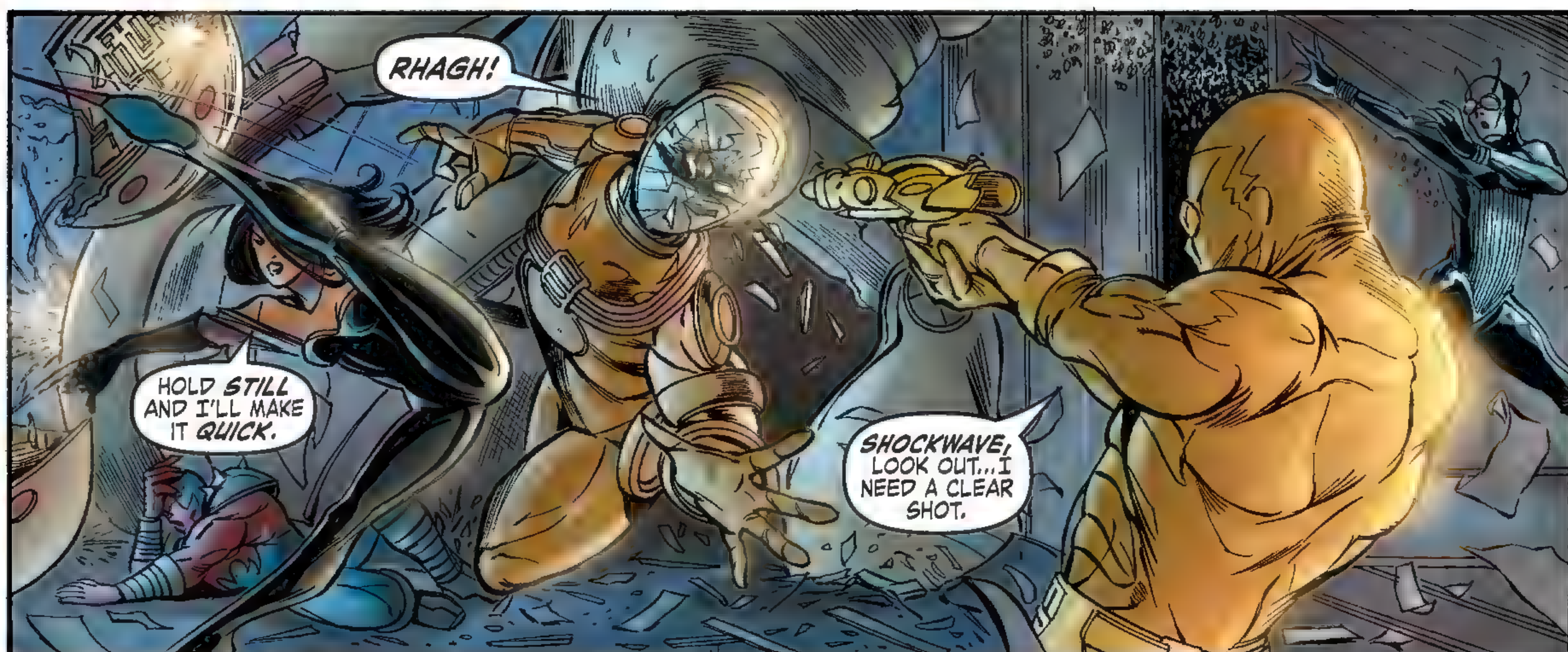
THEY'RE
BOUNTY
HUNTERS!

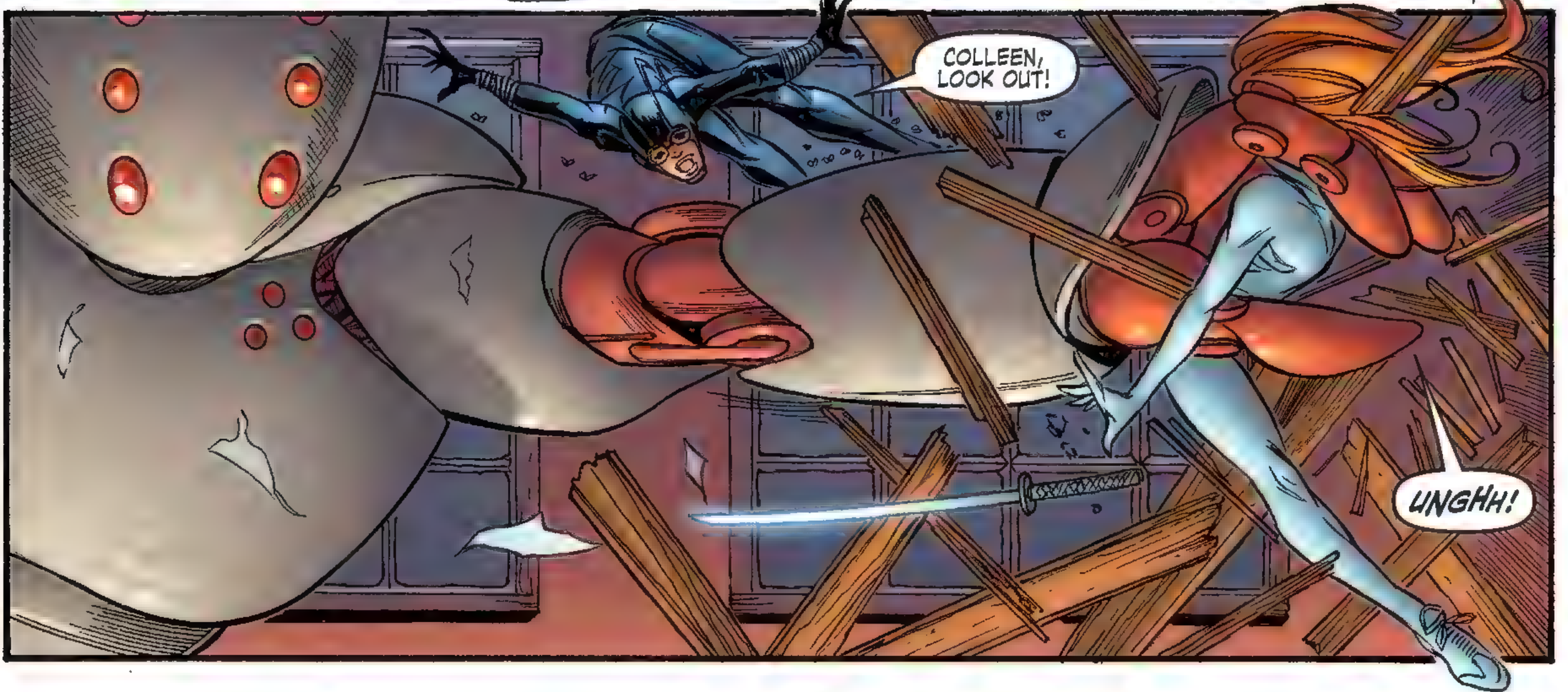
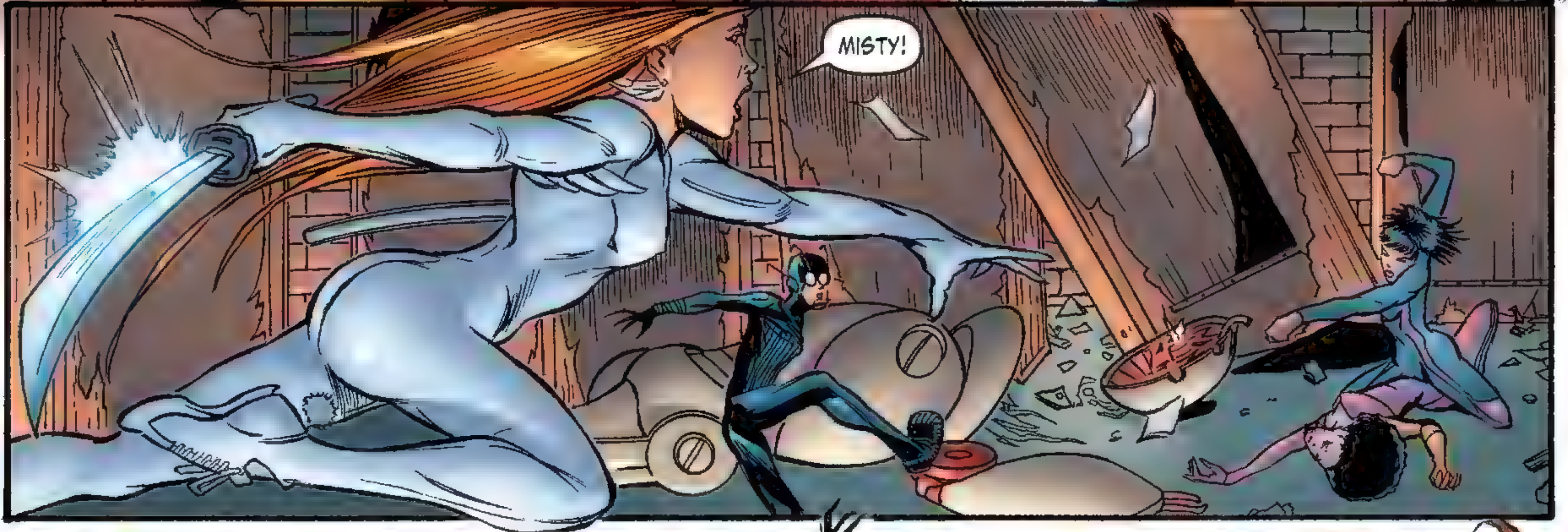
I WAS
BEGINNING
TO THINK YOU
WOULDN'T
SHOW.















MY NAME'S **PALADIN** AND YOU MAY KNOW MY ASSOCIATES, **SHANG-CHI** AND **ORKA**. WE'RE **MISTY'S** SECOND WAVE.

YOU HAVE THREE SECONDS TO **SURRENDER**...AFTER THAT, I PROMISE THINGS WILL GET REAL BLOODY.

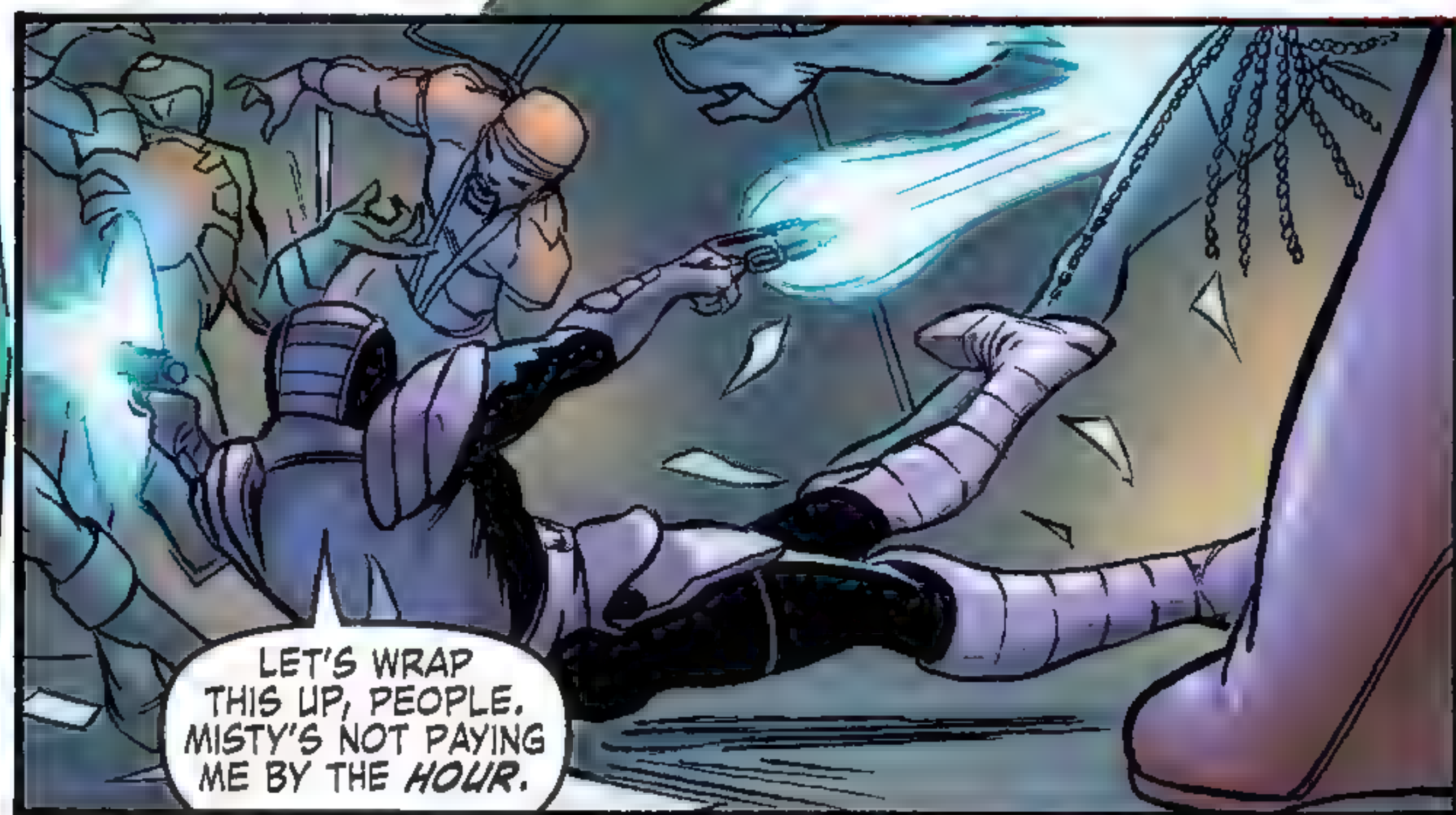
I **KNOW** WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. WE GOT OUR BUTTS HANDED TO US BY A BUNCH OF **THIRD-RATE GOONS** AND NEEDED THE BACKUP SQUAD FOR HELP.

IT APPEARS THEY DID NOT LIKE THE NON-VIOLENT OPTION.

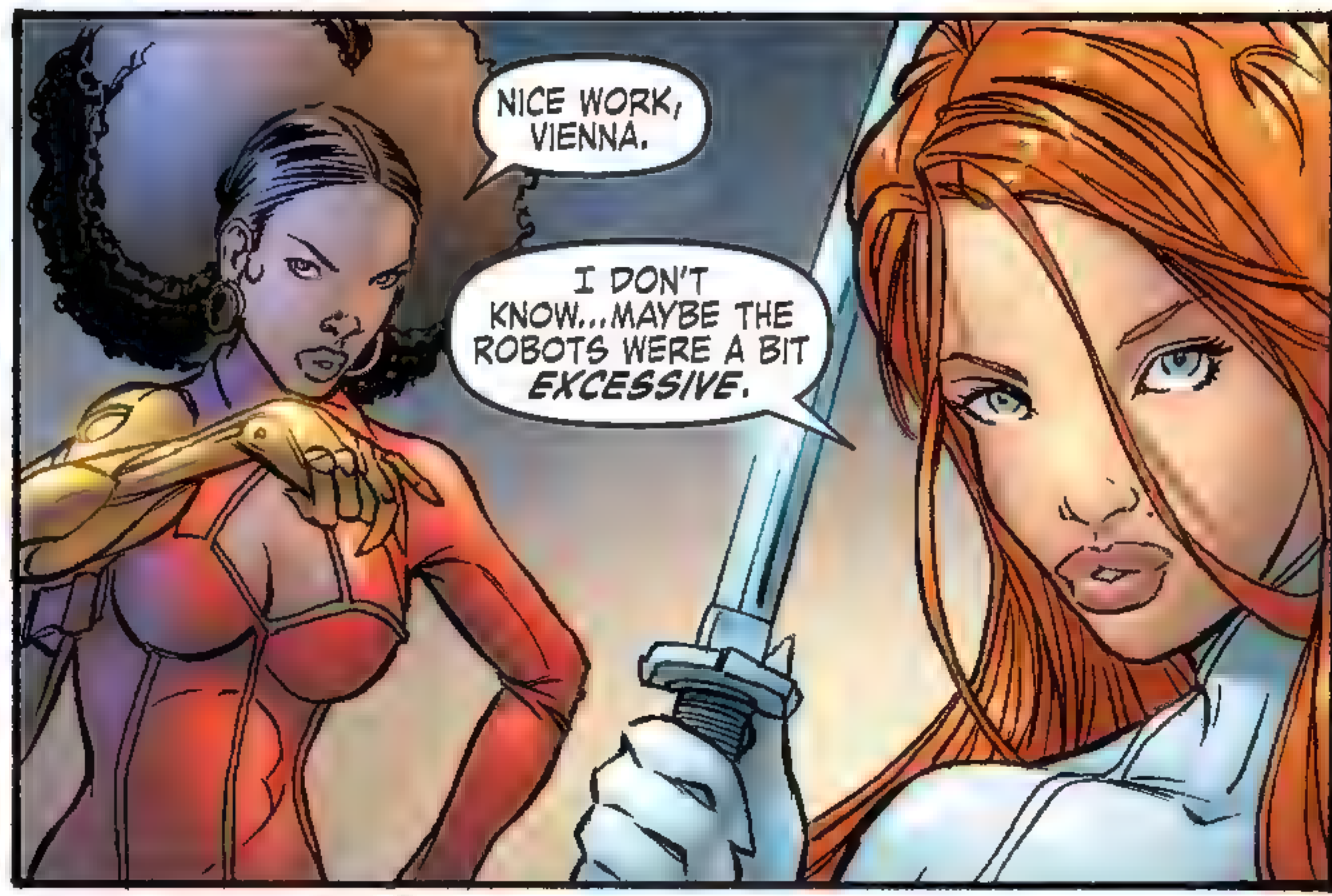
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE **WRONG**. LIKE A BOXER ON THE TAKE, WE THREW THE FIGHT. WE ATE CANVAS IN THE FIRST ROUND FOR A **REASON**. PAY ATTENTION.



I LIKE IT BETTER WHEN I CAN HIT PEOPLE, **SHANG-CHI**.



LET'S WRAP THIS UP, PEOPLE. **MISTY'S** NOT PAYING ME BY THE **HOUR**.



NICE WORK, **VIENNA**.

I DON'T KNOW...MAYBE THE ROBOTS WERE A BIT **EXCESSIVE**.



THANK ME WITH **MONEY**, HONEY.

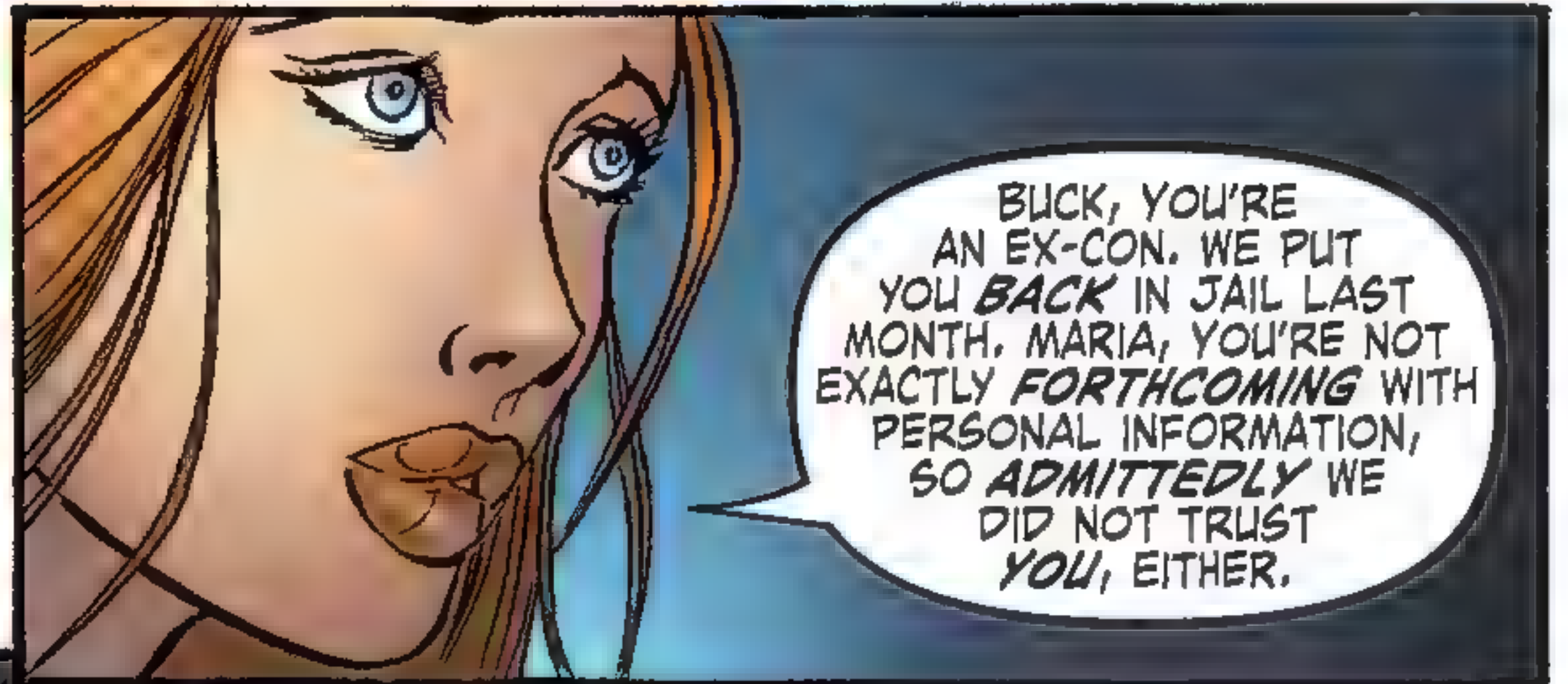
WHAT'S GOING ON? I THOUGHT SHE WAS THE **BAD GIRL**.

THIS WAS A **STING** OPERATION. VIENNA LURED THE WILD BUNCH HERE WITH PROMISES OF **NEW IDENTITIES**. IN **EXCHANGE**, WE'RE PAYING HER A LARGE SUM OF FEDERAL CASH.



WHY **THE HELL** DIDN'T YOU TELL US ABOUT IT?

THEY DIDN'T **TRUST** US.



BUCK, YOU'RE AN **EX-CON**. WE PUT YOU **BACK** IN JAIL LAST MONTH. MARIA, YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY **FORTHCOMING** WITH PERSONAL INFORMATION, SO **ADMITTEDLY** WE DID NOT **TRUST** YOU, EITHER.



GIVEN RECENT EVENTS IT WAS A **NECESSARY** STEP TO INSURE GROUP STABILITY.

THEY DID THE **SAME** THING WITH ME, SO DON'T FEEL BAD.

I CAN SEE YOUR LOGIC. IN THE **FUTURE**, IF YOU WANT INFORMATION, YOU **ASK** ME FOR IT.



LOOK, PEOPLE, WE'RE **LITERALLY** IN THE MIDDLE OF A CIVIL WAR BETWEEN SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST **POWERFUL** SUPER HEROES. WE'RE OUTCLASSED, OUTGUNNED AND THAT PRETTY MUCH MAKES US THE DIRTY DOZEN OF THE SPANDEX SET.

THE CAPES CAN **UNDERESTIMATE** US ALL THEY WANT BECAUSE THE BOTTOM LINE IS, FOR ALL THEIR **POWER**, NONE OF THE MASKS KNOWS WHOM THEY CAN **TRUST** AND WHOM THEY **CAN'T**.



TRUST AIN'T GONNA BE AN ISSUE WITH **HEROES FOR HIRE**.

NEXT > TARGET: CAPTAIN AMERICA

2



HEROES FOR HIRE™

A MARVEL® COMICS EVENT

CIVIL WAR™

PALMIOTTI
GRAY

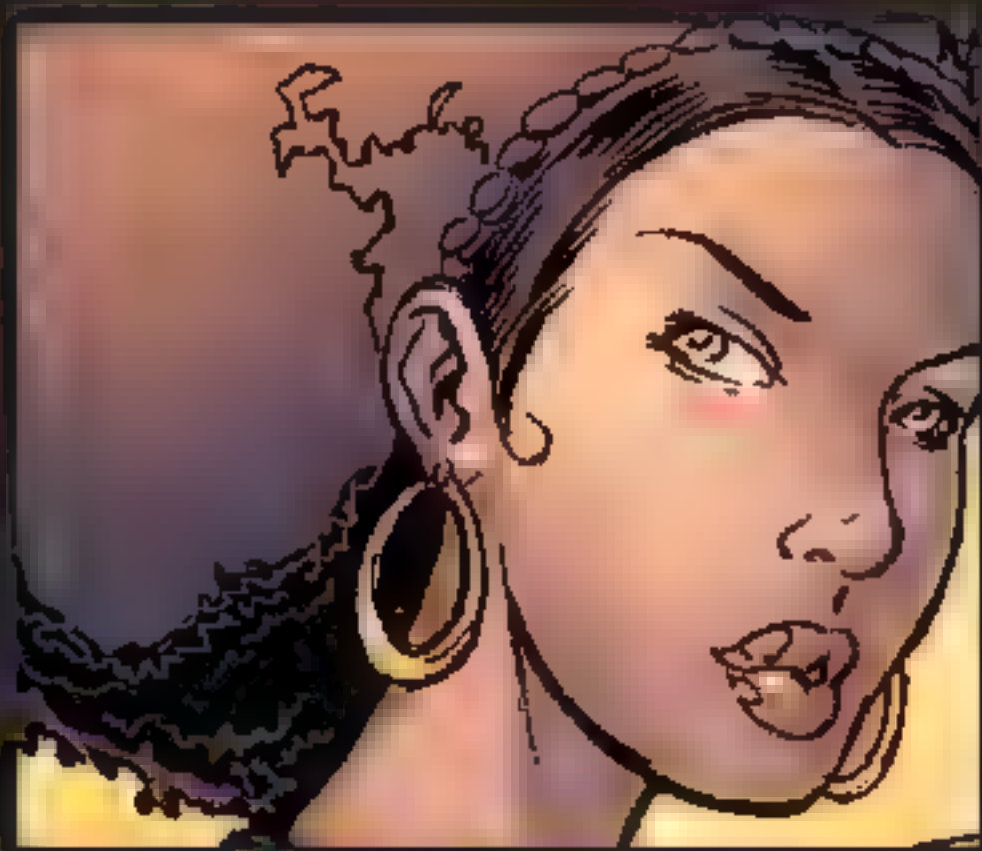
TUCCI
PORTELLA
PALMER

After Stamford, Connecticut is destroyed during a televised fight between the New Warriors and a group of dangerous villains, public sentiment turns against super heroes. Advocates call for reform, and a Superhuman Registration Act is passed which will require all those possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government, divulge their true identities to the authorities and submit to training and sanctioning in the manner of federal agents. Anyone with super-powers who refuses to register is now a criminal.

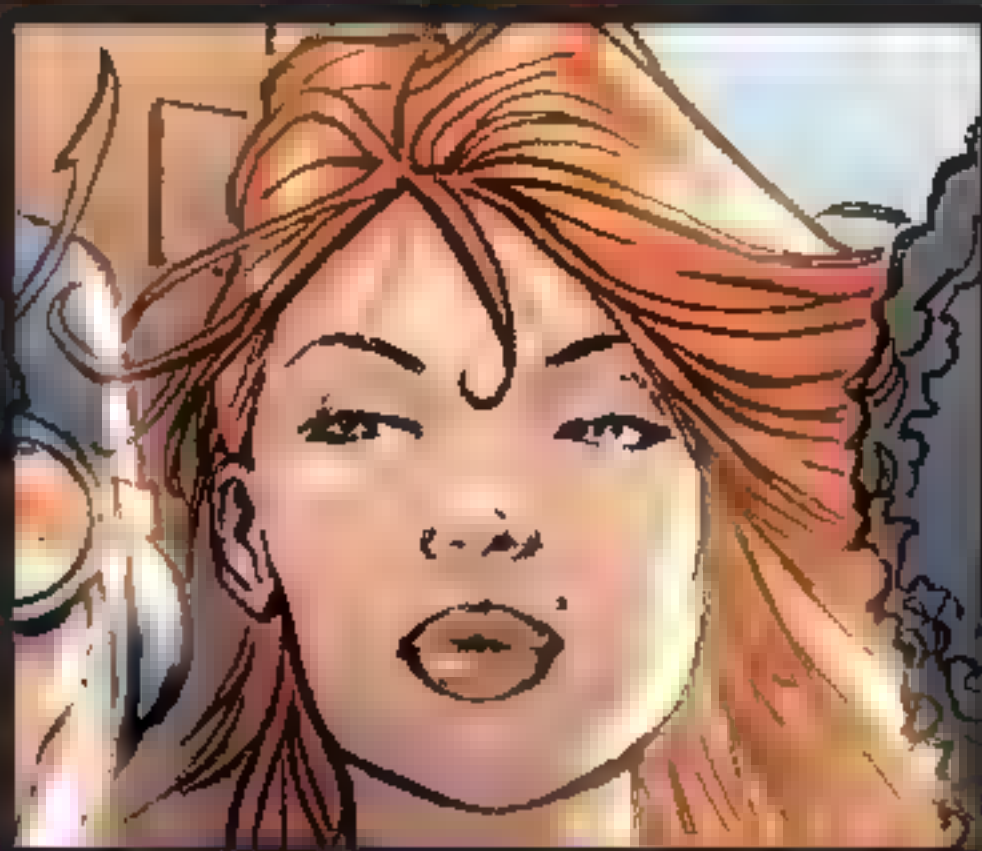
Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society and a reasonable request. Others, like Captain America, view the Act as an assault on their civil liberties, and go underground to form a resistance movement.

And then there's a third category of hero...

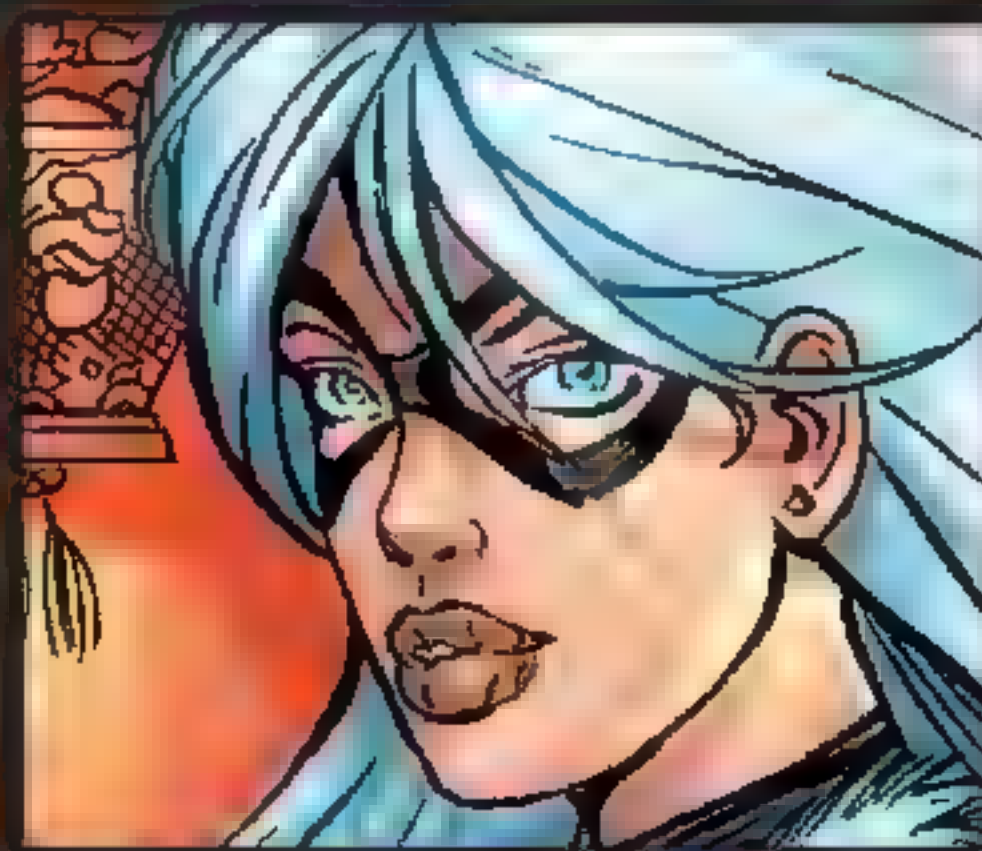
HEROES FOR HIRE



MISTY KNIGHT



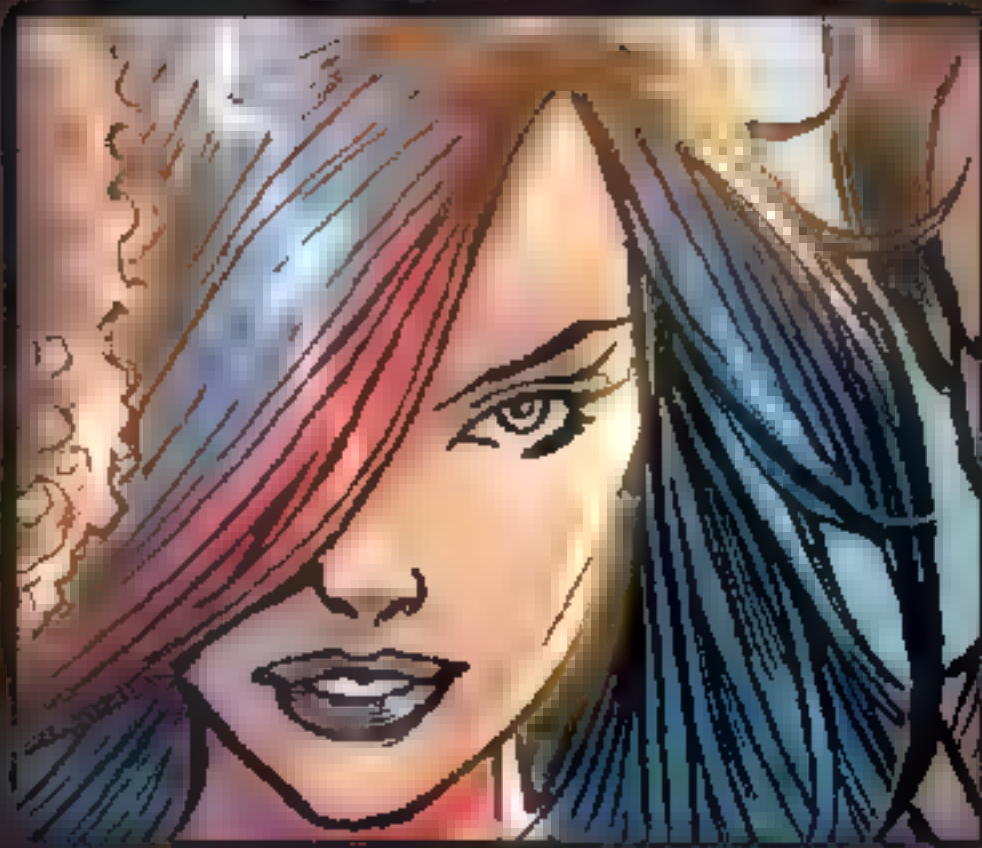
COLLEEN WING



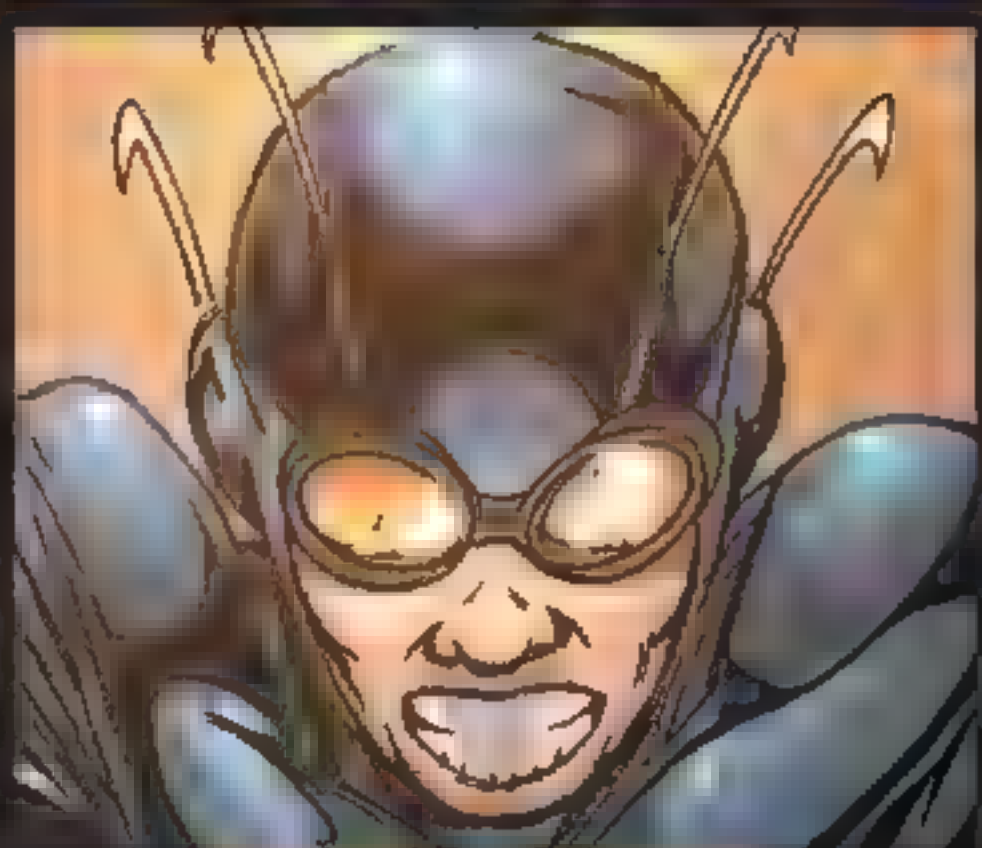
BLACK CAT



**SHANG-CHI,
MASTER OF
KUNG FU**



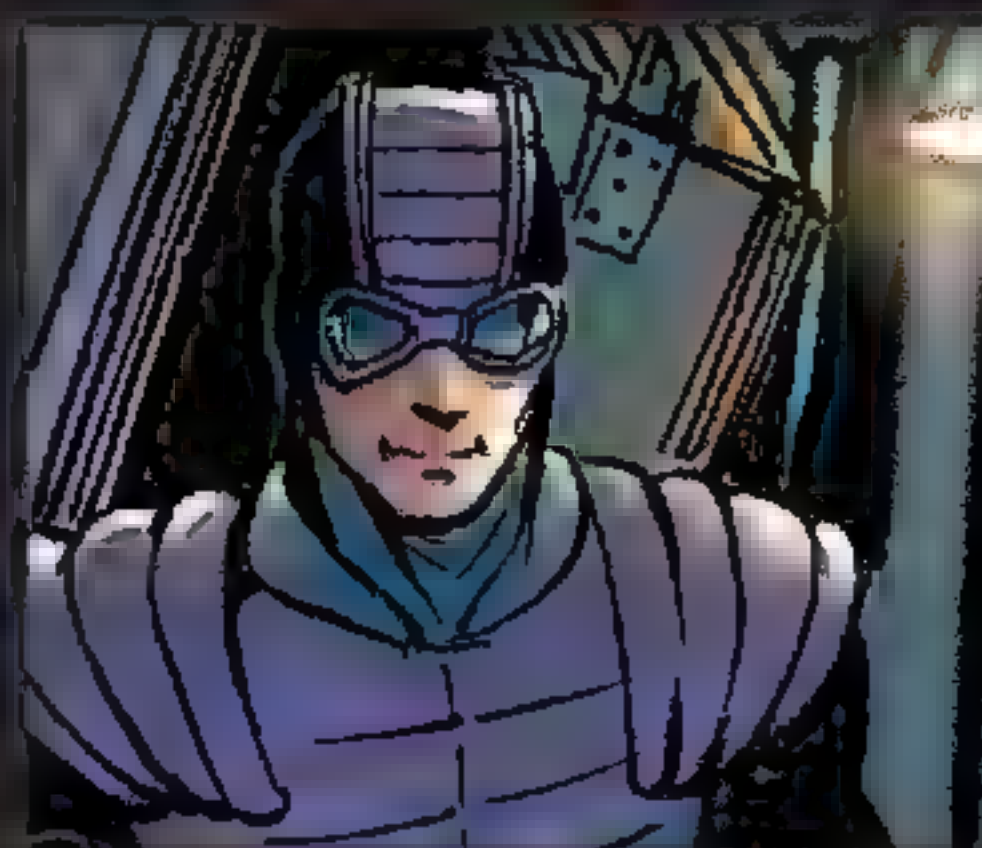
TARANTULA



HUMBUG



ORKA



PALADIN

Though uncomfortable fighting those they consider to be friends, Misty and the HFH agree to work with the federal government to apprehend unregistered heroes and villains, on the condition that this Civil War not result in unnecessary bloodshed. But that promise has already been broken...

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS, PART 2

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THIS IS
EXACTLY WHAT
I WARNED YOU
ABOUT!

DA CASUALTY OF WAR

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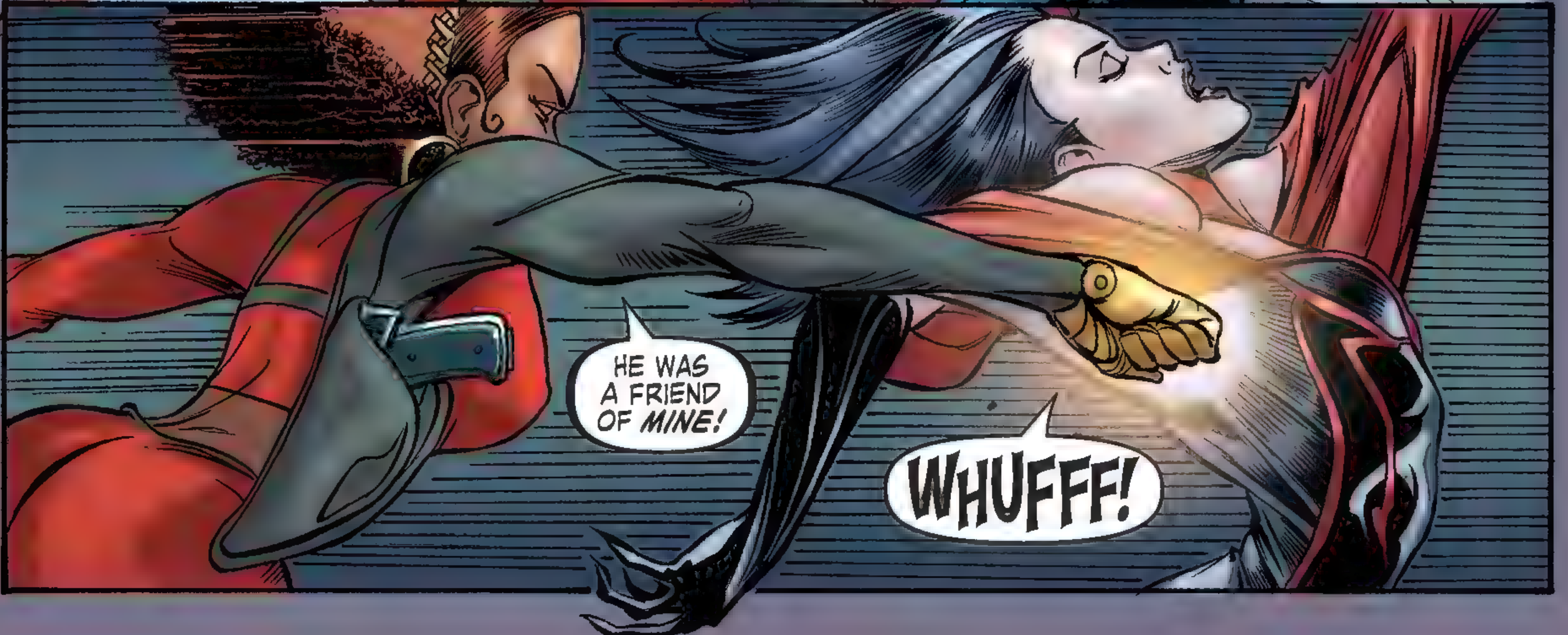
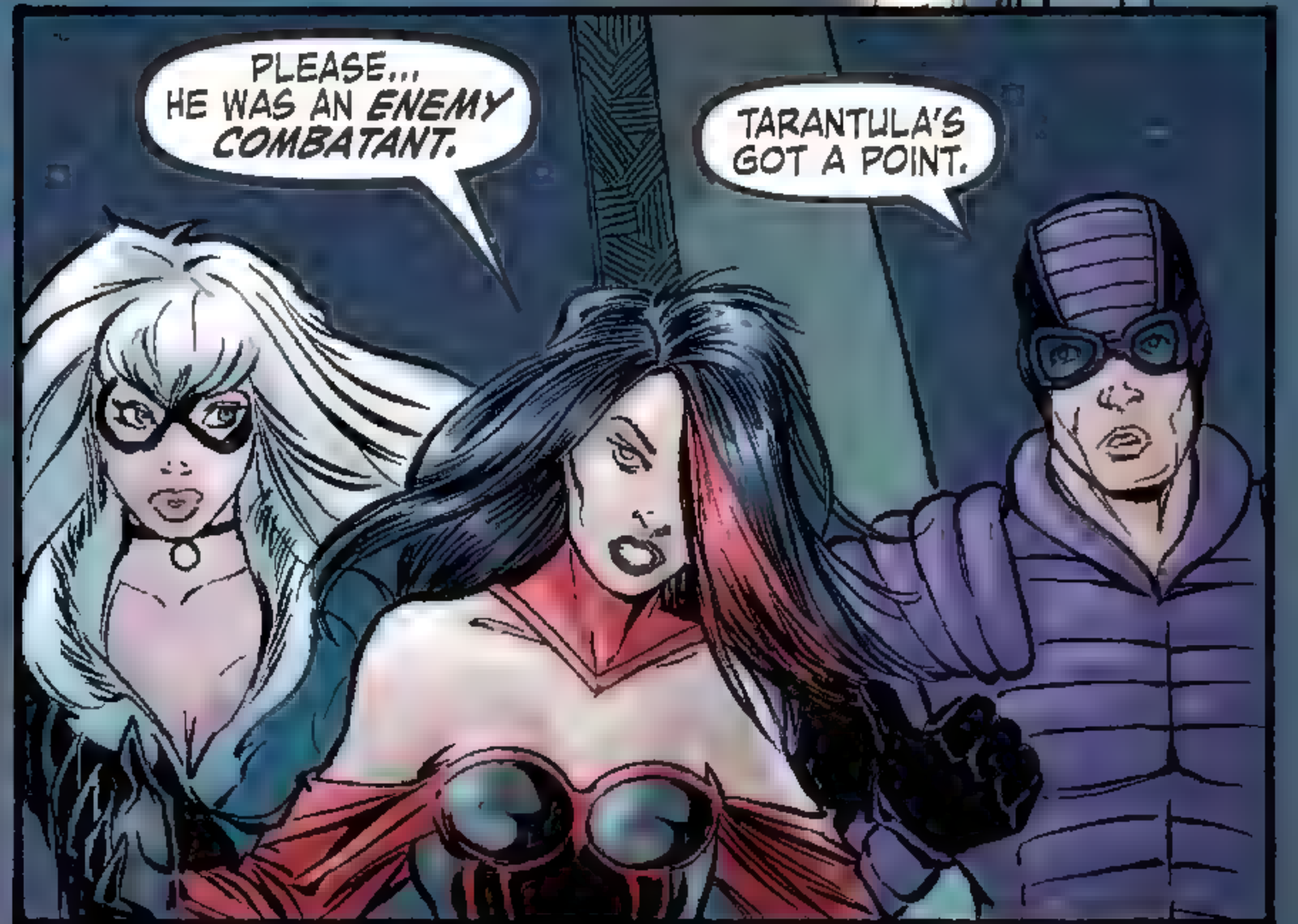
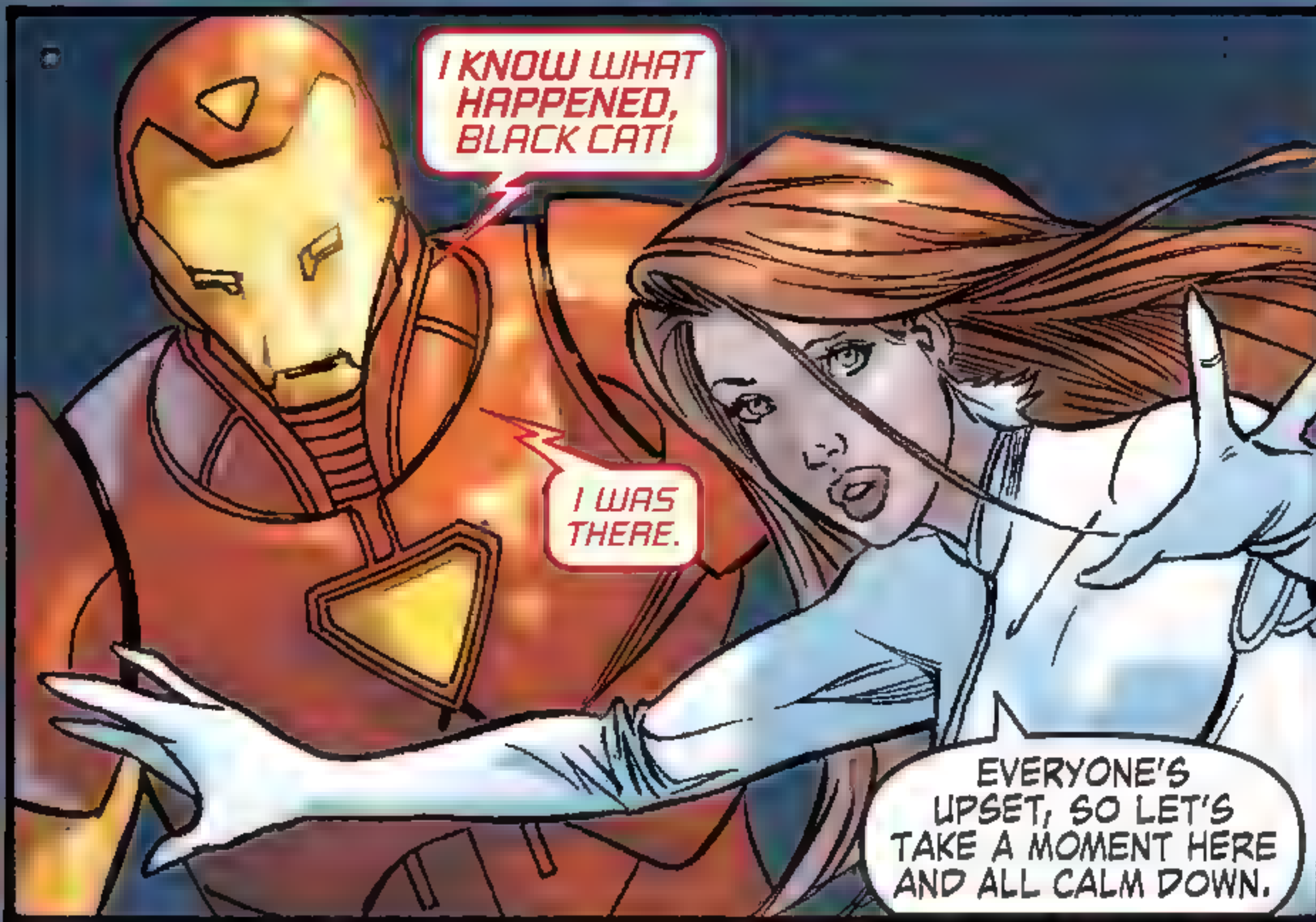
Anti-Registrant Bill Foster, a.k. Goliath, Killed

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Sed in felis vel risus lacus consetetur. Morbi aliquam consequat urna. Ut mauris justo, ultrices vitae, adipiscing quis, fringilla eget, ipsum. Vestibulum viverra pharetra leo. Donec diam. Donec aliquet tincidunt magna. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Donec semper, eros nec commodo amet congue neque metus ac felis. Suspendisse magna. Quisque sed justo. Etiam commodo tristique lectus. Nunc libero. Nam sed urna. Nullam ante tellus, sollicitudin ut, Phasellus at, nulla. Nunc fermentum, consetetur, nibh pede venenatis consetetur, nibh pede venenatis pellentesque dui, vel faucibus lacus.





OKAY, HOLD ON!

SHE... HIT ME.

YOU SAY ANYTHING STUPID LIKE THAT *AGAIN*, I SWEAR I'LL RIP YOUR HEAD OFF AND THEN I'LL FIRE YOU. AND PALADIN, BEST YOU KEEP YOUR *THOUGHTS* TO YOURSELF.



WE ARE ALL DEEPLY *SADDENED* BY WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

BUT IRON MAN DID NOT KILL GOLIATH.

WE DIDN'T INTEND FOR THIS TO HAPPEN. THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH OUR DESIGN.

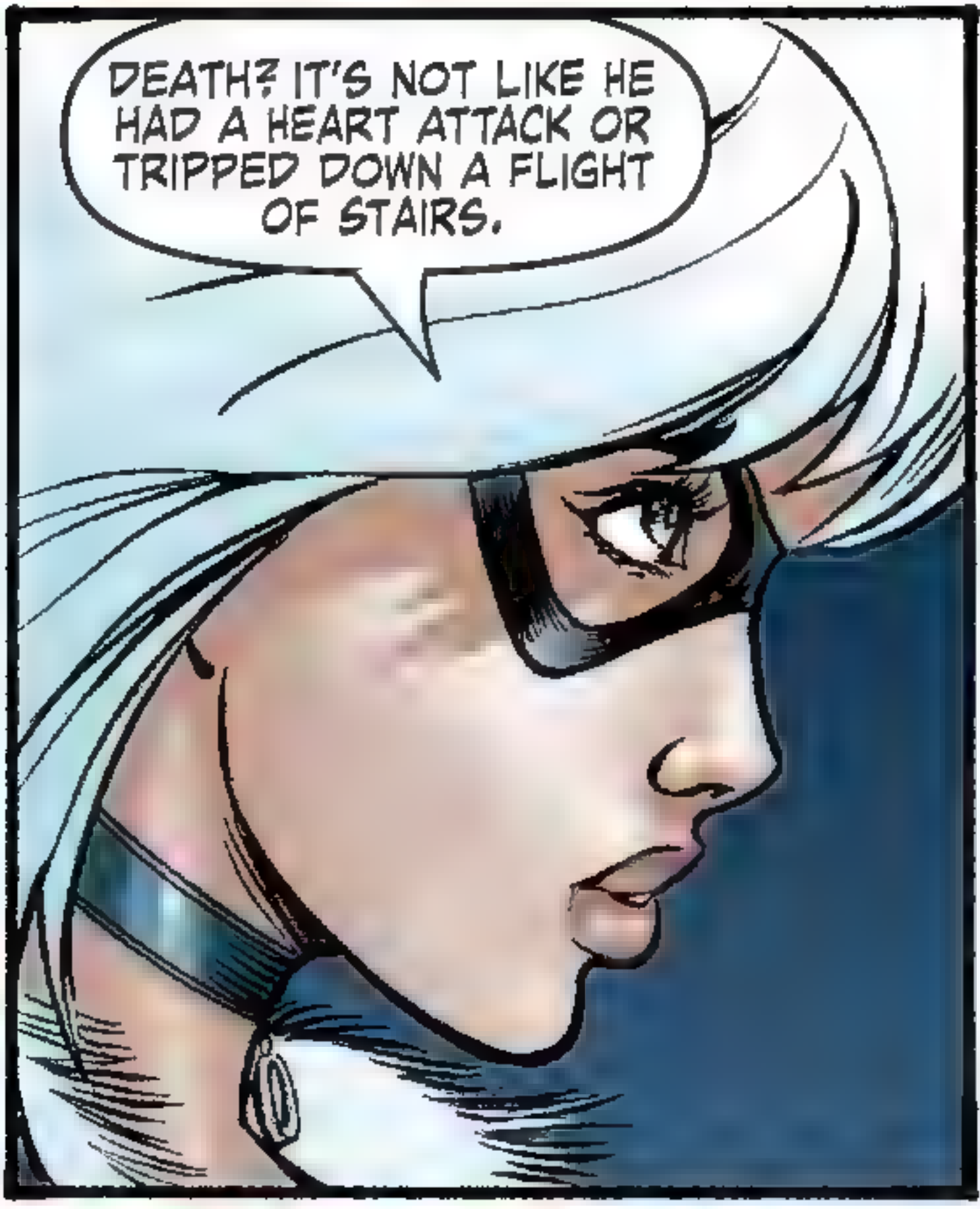


ONE DOES NOT ENTER INTO COMBAT WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF DEATH.

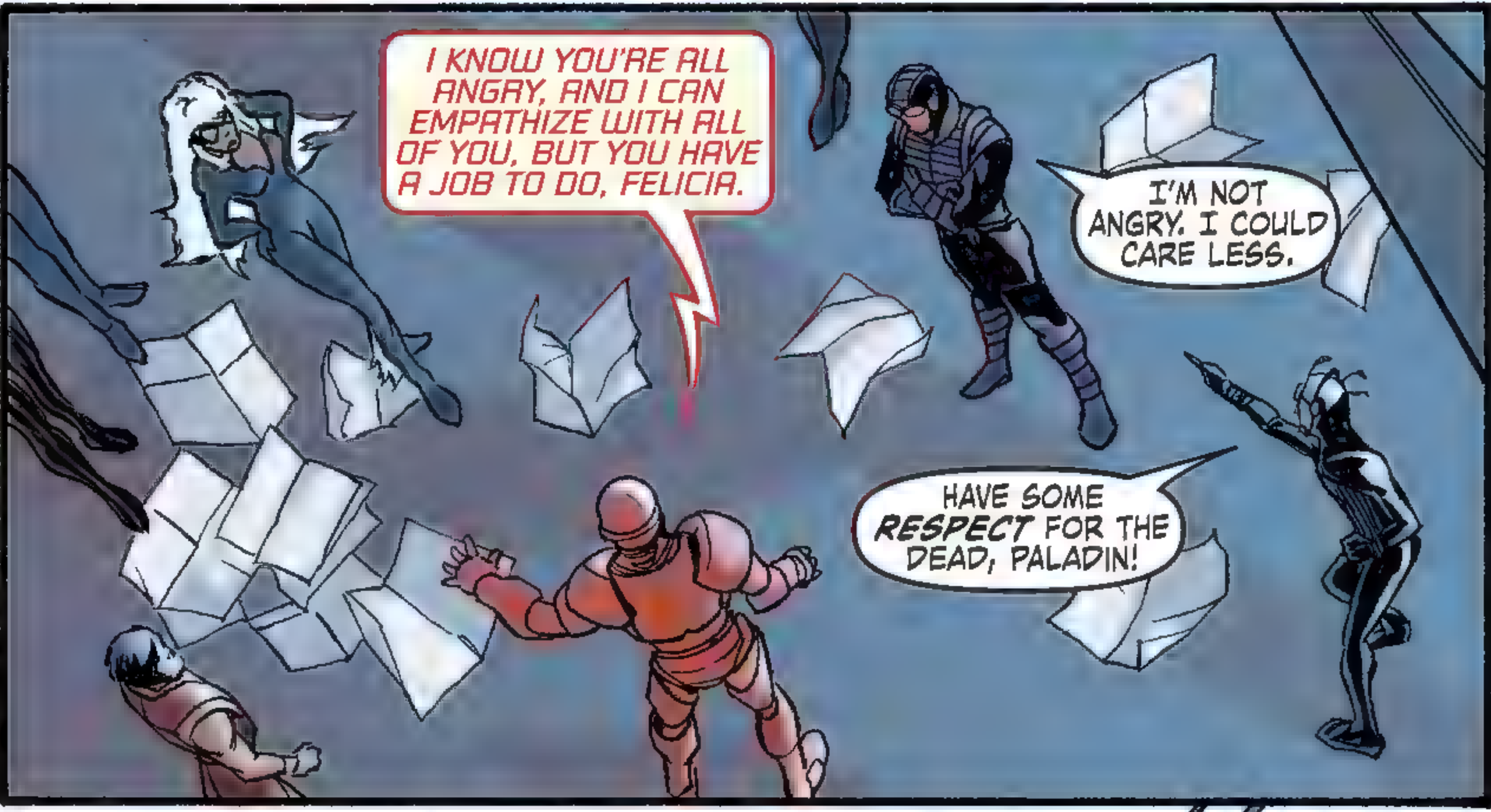
EXPERIENCE SHOULD TELL YOU THAT *NONE* OF THE PEOPLE YOU'RE AFTER ARE LIKELY TO QUIT UNDER *ANY* CIRCUMSTANCES.

A PEACEFUL *RESOLUTION* MUST BE REACHED BEFORE MORE OF OUR FRIENDS DIE.

SHANG-CHI, UNDERSTAND THAT WE NEVER WANTED ANYTHING BUT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION... BUT NOW... THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE AN EASY FIX. BILL'S DEATH...



DEATH? IT'S NOT LIKE HE HAD A HEART ATTACK OR TRIPPED DOWN A FLIGHT OF STAIRS.



I KNOW YOU'RE ALL ANGRY, AND I CAN EMPATHIZE WITH ALL OF YOU, BUT YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO, FELICIA.

I'M NOT ANGRY. I COULD CARE LESS.

HAVE SOME *RESPECT* FOR THE DEAD, PALADIN!



IRON MAN...WHEN I THINK ABOUT THOSE *KIDS* IN STAMFORD, HOW THEY WERE PLAYING IN THE *SCHOOLYARD* ONE MINUTE AND THE *NEXT*... WELL, YOU *KNOW* WHAT I MEAN.

I GUESS WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT WE VOLUNTARILY RISK OUR LIVES FOR DIFFERENT REASONS, JUST LIKE GOLIATH DIED FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED IN. I HOPE I'M SPEAKING FOR THE TEAM WHEN I SAY THAT WE'RE WILLING TO SACRIFICE TO MAKE SURE THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN STAMFORD NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.



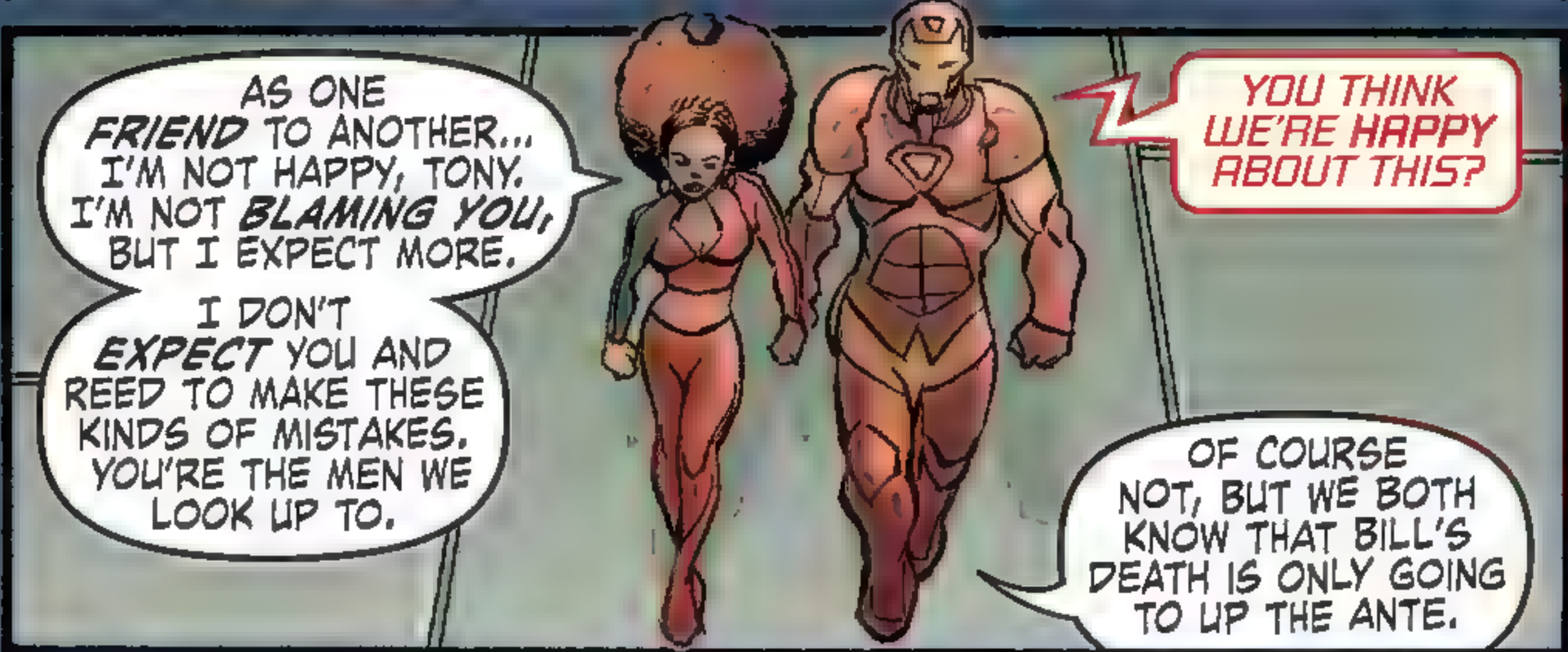
YOUR
CREEPY
FRIEND
IS RIGHT.

EVERYONE--
GIVE US A
MINUTE.



I'M NOT
CREEPY.

DON'T
BE MEAN TO
HUMBUG.

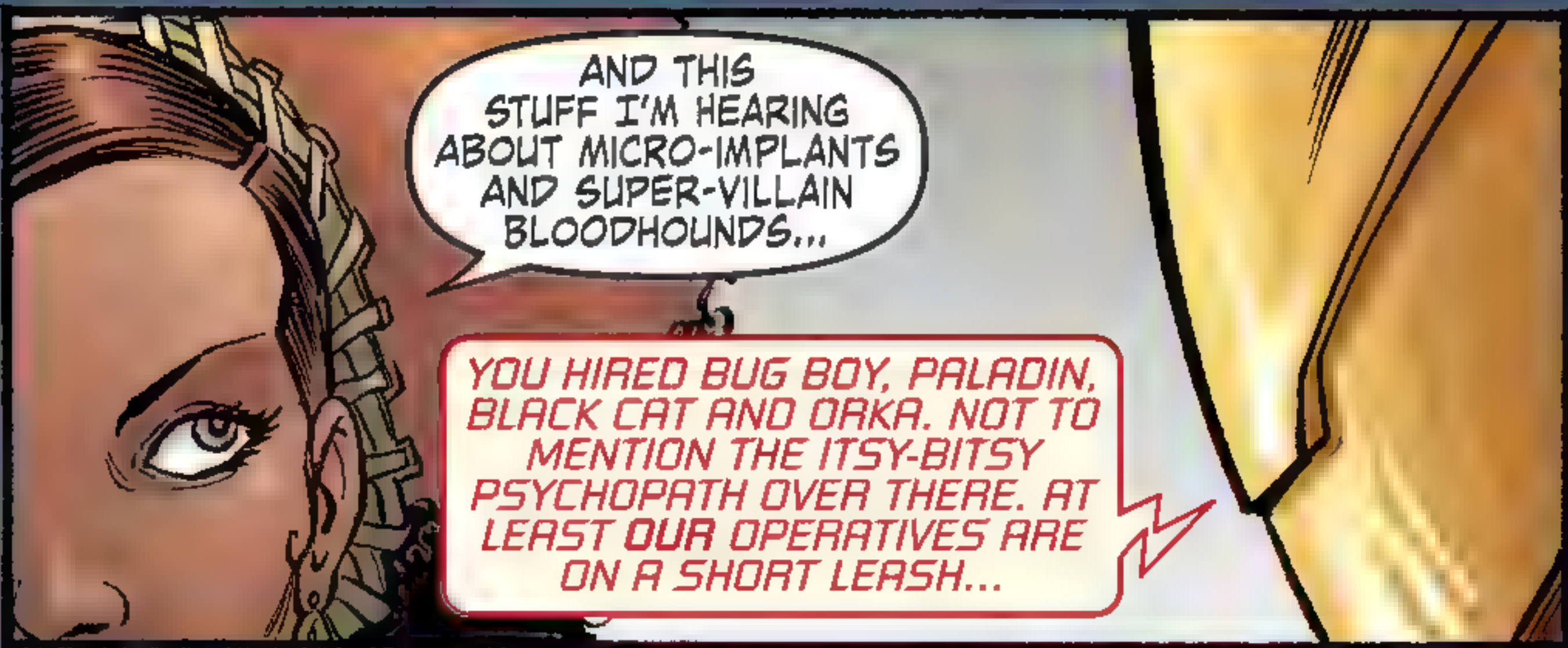


AS ONE
FRIEND TO ANOTHER...
I'M NOT HAPPY, TONY.
I'M NOT **BLAMING YOU**,
BUT I EXPECT MORE.

I DON'T
EXPECT YOU AND
REED TO MAKE THESE
KINDS OF MISTAKES.
YOU'RE THE MEN WE
LOOK UP TO.

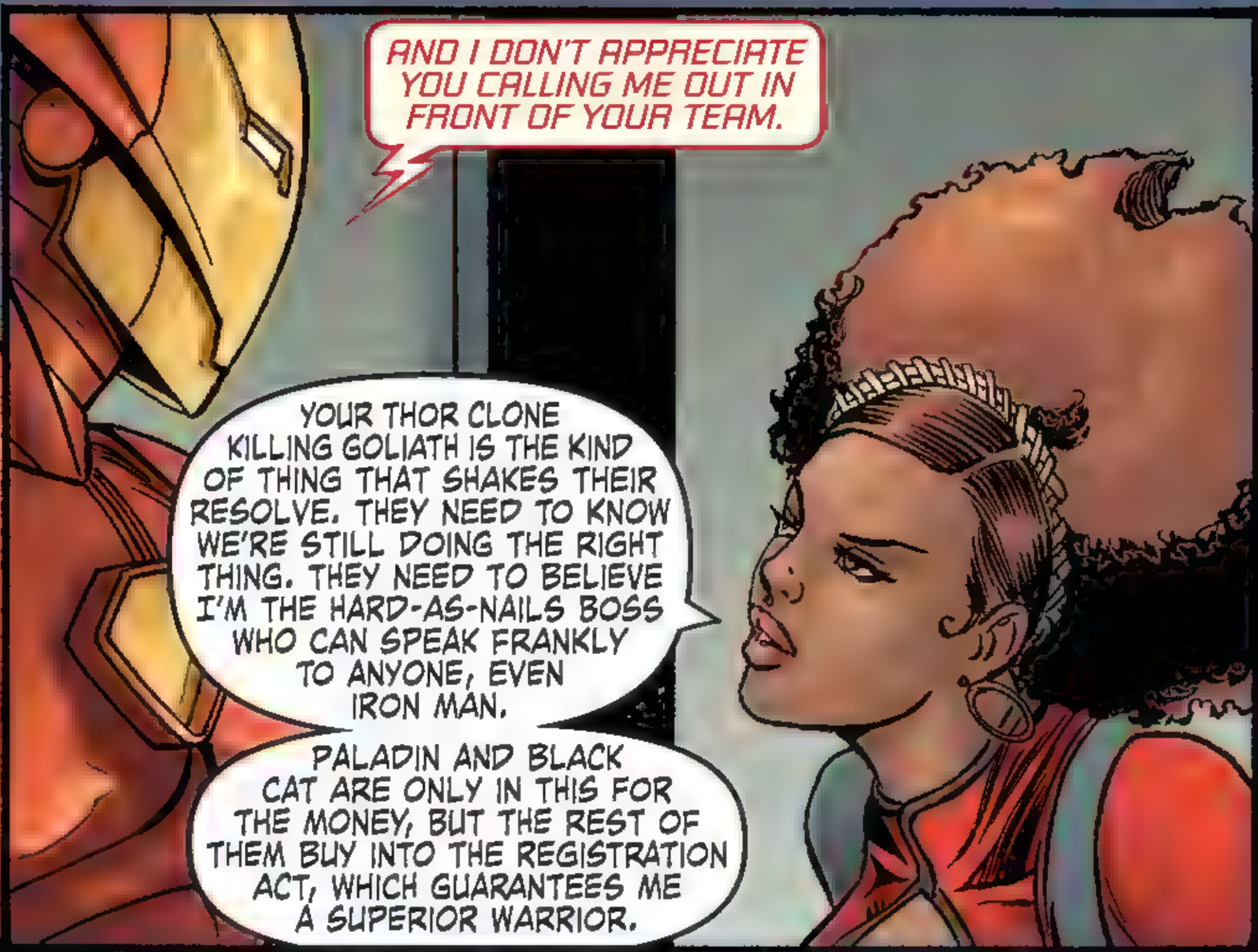
YOU THINK
WE'RE HAPPY
ABOUT THIS?

OF COURSE
NOT, BUT WE BOTH
KNOW THAT BILL'S
DEATH IS ONLY GOING
TO UP THE ANTE.



AND THIS
STUFF I'M HEARING
ABOUT MICRO-IMPLANTS
AND SUPER-VILLAIN
BLOODHOUNDS...

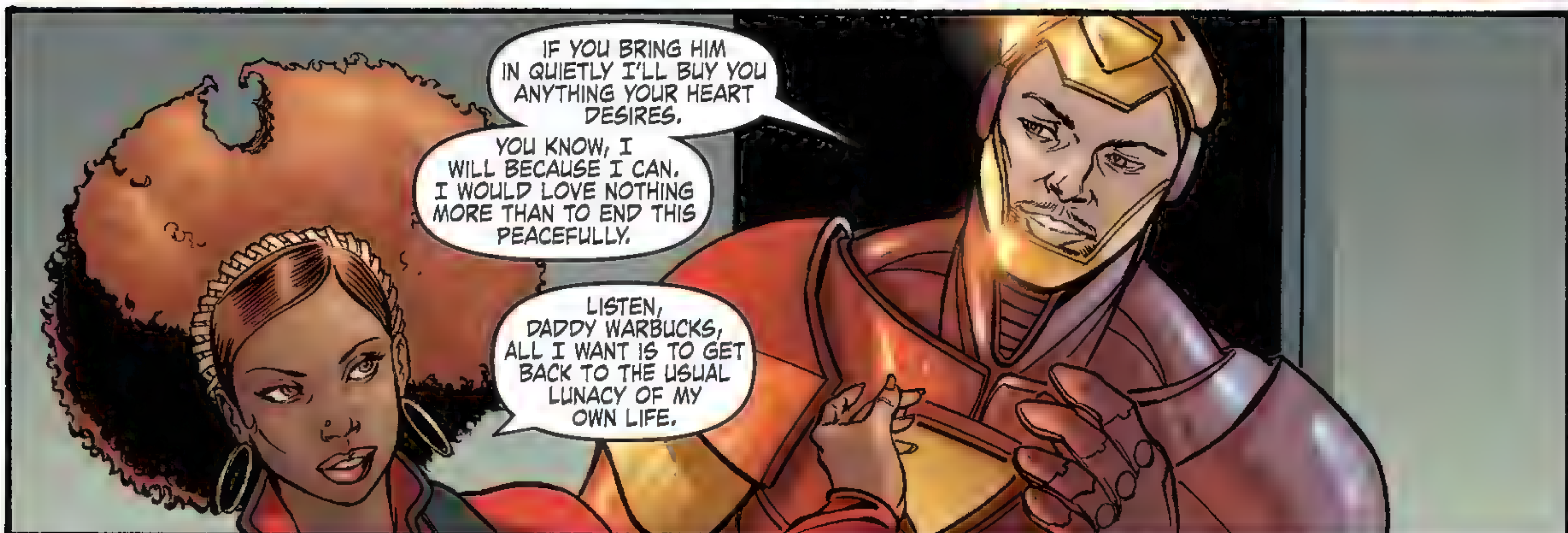
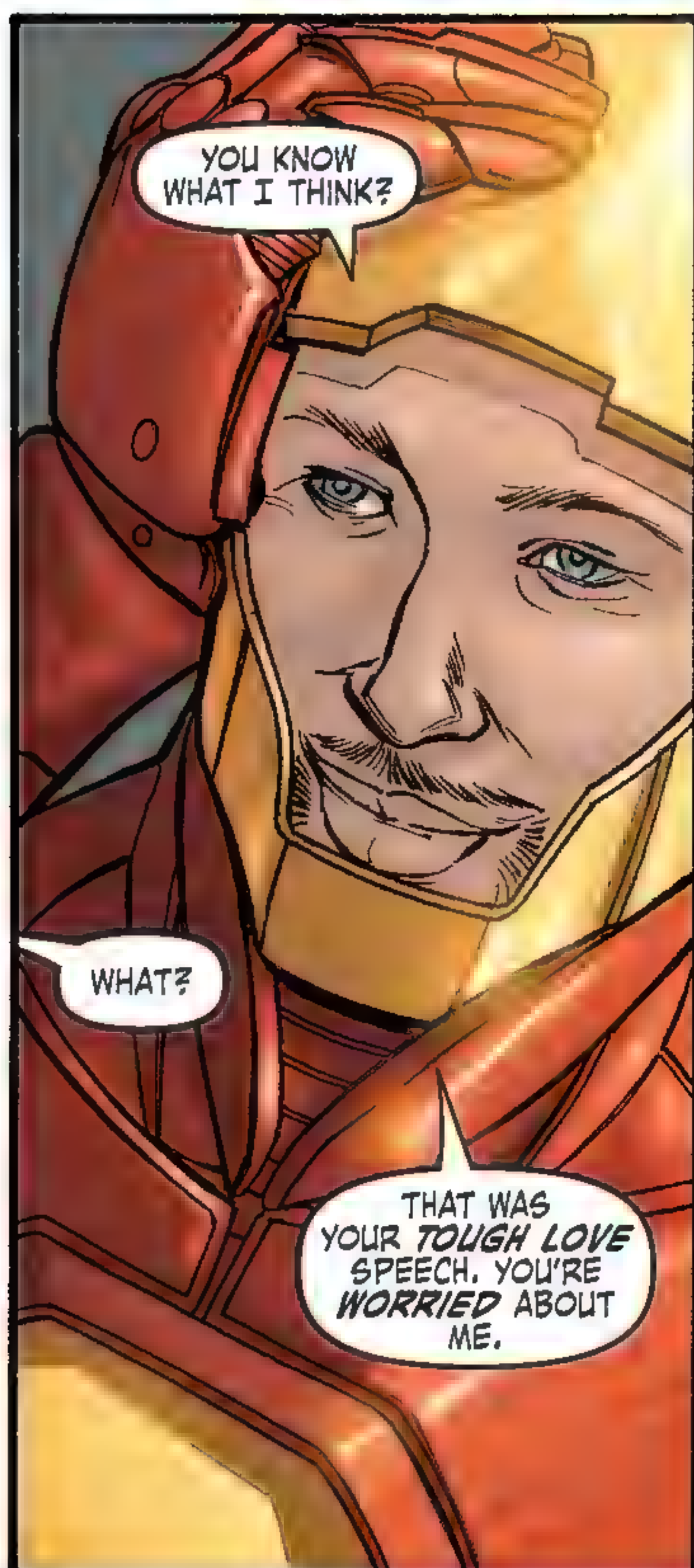
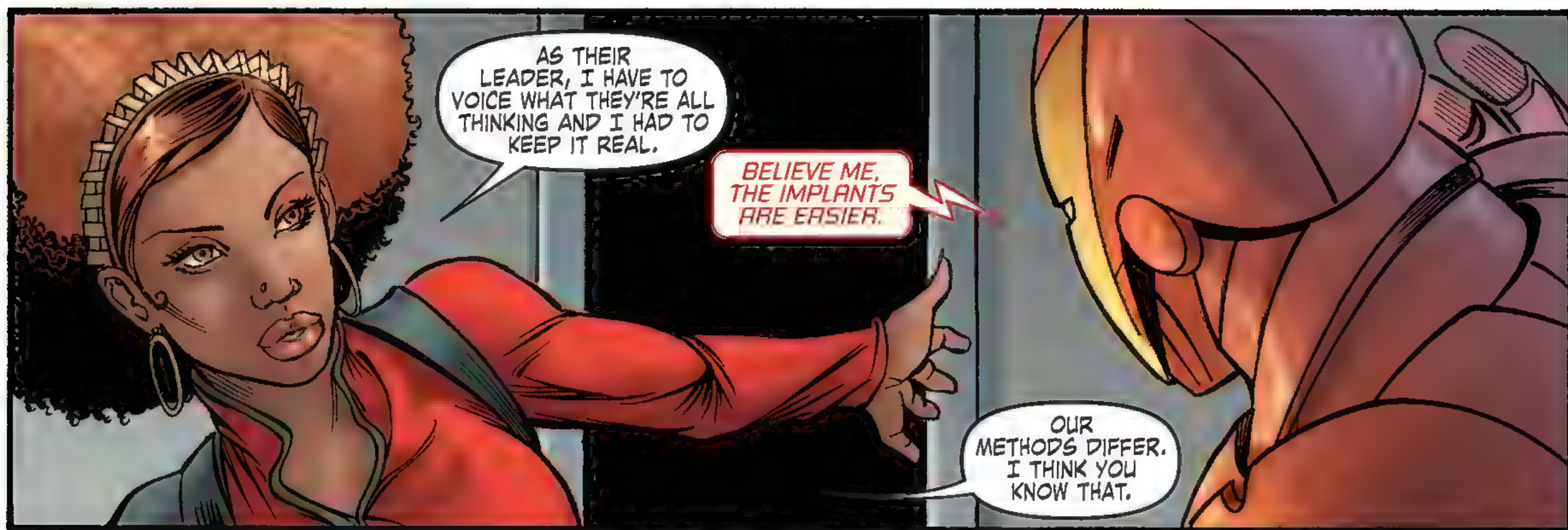
YOU HIRED BUG BOY, PALADIN,
BLACK CAT AND OAKA. NOT TO
MENTION THE ITSY-BITSY
PSYCHOPATH OVER THERE. AT
LEAST OUR OPERATIVES ARE
ON A SHORT LEASH...

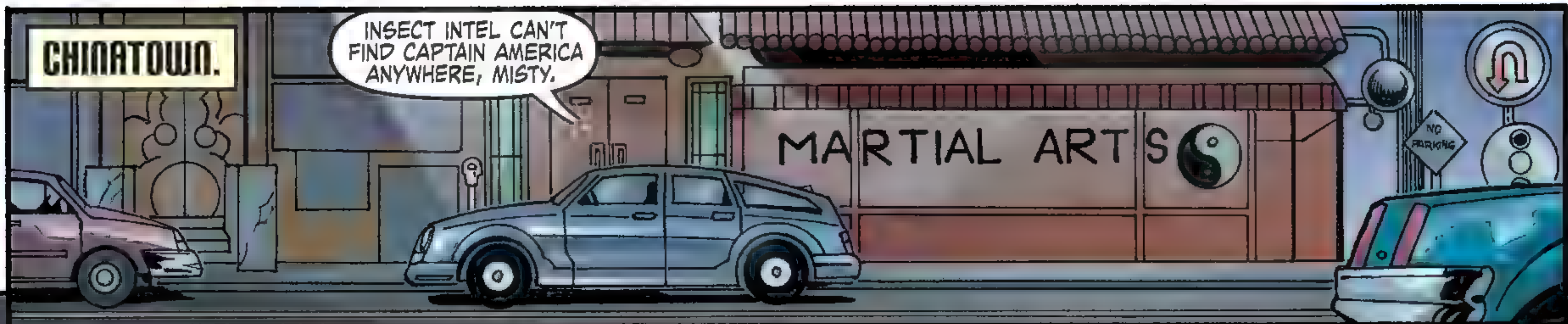


AND I DON'T APPRECIATE
YOU CALLING ME OUT IN
FRONT OF YOUR TEAM.

YOUR THOR CLONE
KILLING GOLIATH IS THE KIND
OF THING THAT SHAKES THEIR
RESOLVE. THEY NEED TO KNOW
WE'RE STILL DOING THE RIGHT
THING. THEY NEED TO BELIEVE
I'M THE HARD-AS-NAILS BOSS
WHO CAN SPEAK FRANKLY
TO ANYONE, EVEN
IRON MAN.

PALADIN AND BLACK
CAT ARE ONLY IN THIS FOR
THE MONEY, BUT THE REST OF
THEM BUY INTO THE REGISTRATION
ACT, WHICH GUARANTEES ME
A SUPERIOR WARRIOR.





CHINATOWN.

INSECT INTEL CAN'T FIND CAPTAIN AMERICA ANYWHERE, MISTY.



THAT'S ALL RIGHT, HUMBUG. WE HAVE OTHER RESOURCES. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MISTER QUI?

I AM AT YOUR DISPOSAL.



WHY ARE WE IN THE BASEMENT OF A WHOLESALE KUNG FU SHOP?

IF CAPTAIN AMERICA IS OPERATING OUT OF A S.H.I.E.L.D. SAFE HOUSE, THEN ALL MODERN FORMS OF TECHNOLOGY WILL BE UNABLE TO LOCATE HIM.

PLUS THE REGULAR FILTRATION SYSTEMS AND AIR-TIGHT SEALS WILL KEEP OUT ANY INSECTS, RADIATION OR HARMFUL GASES.



THEREFORE, MISTER QUI WILL ALLOW US TO COMMUNE WITH HIS PIXIU.

THAT SOUNDS DIRTY. WHAT'S A PIXIU?

I'M KIND OF CURIOUS ABOUT THAT AS WELL.



CURIOSITY IS A WORTHY VIRTUE. YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE SOMETHING FEW LIVING MORTALS HAVE.

OVER EIGHTY YEARS AGO, TEN OF THE CHOSEN ONES CLIMBED THE XIAN GHOST MOUNTAIN AND STOLE THE PIXIU EGG. I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED.

I'LL WAIT FOR THE MOVIE, GRANDPA... GET ON WITH IT.



YOU'RE KIDDING ME.

MISERABLE WRETCHES. I AM THE NINTH OFFSPRING OF THE DRAGON. YOUR RACE WAS NOTHING MORE THAN FROTH AND SWAMP MUD WHEN WE RULED THE EARTH.

COLLEEN?



WHO'S A HUNGRY DEMON?

GIVE!

THIS IS A **BUSINESS** TRANSACTION, PIXIU. WE WANT YOU TO LOCATE THIS MAN.

GIVE ME THE **GOLD** OR I'LL...



CUT THE BAD KITTY ACT... YOU'RE POWERLESS WITHIN THE MYSTICAL CIRCLE. NOW, MAGICALLY FIND THE MAN AND YOU GET GOLD.

MISERABLE HUMAN SCUM. I WOULD ADORN MYSELF WITH YOUR INNARDS.

REALLY? WELL I'D PUT MY BOOT SO FAR UP YOUR DEMON \$#%!

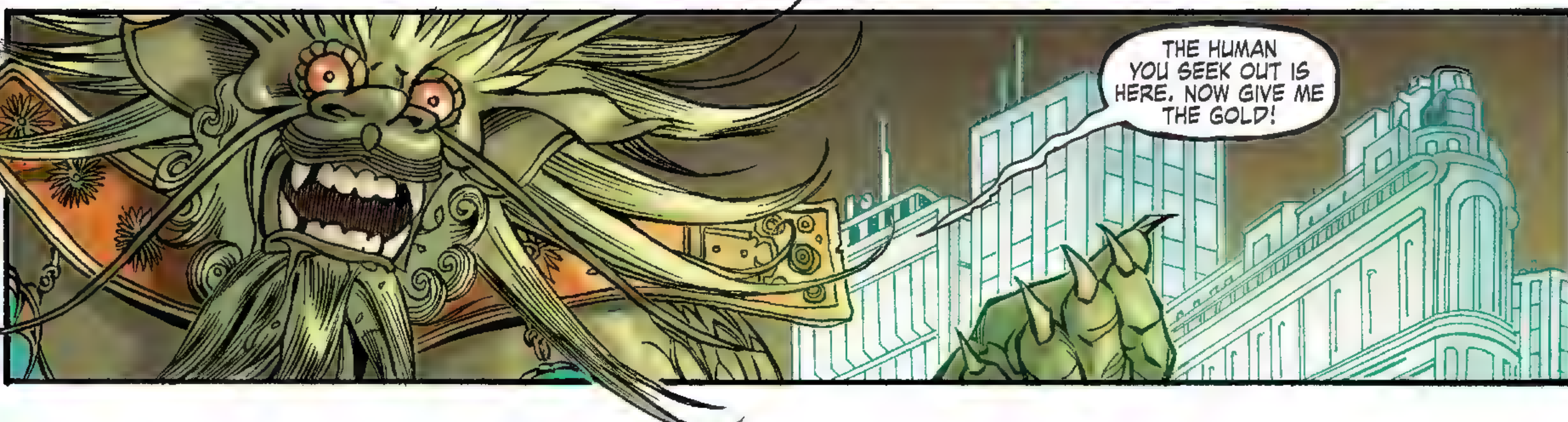
HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE, PALADIN.



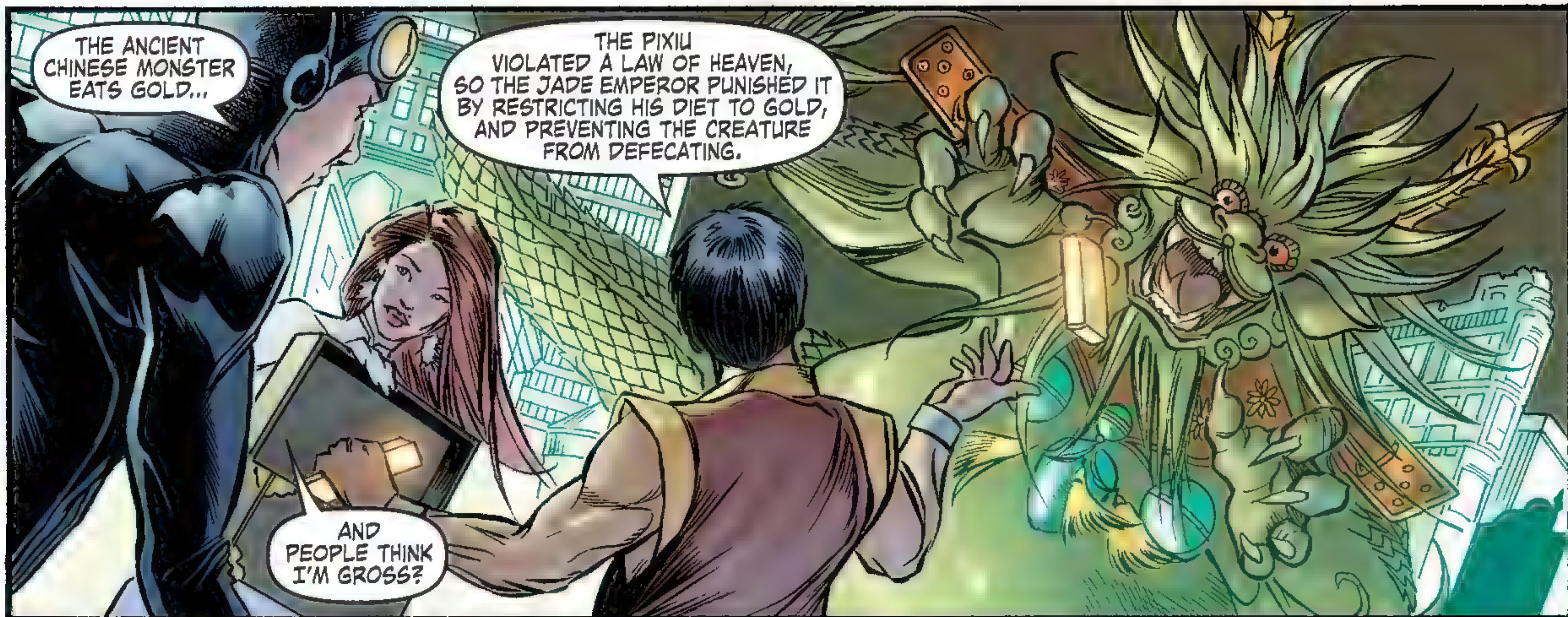
THE HUMAN YOU SEEK IS IN THIS CITY. THERE ARE MAGICS OBSCURING HIS LOCATION, BUT THE PUNY HUMAN SPELLS ARE INFANTILE.

OKAY, THIS IS FREAKY. ANYONE ELSE THINK THIS IS FREAKY?

SAID THE GUY WHO TALKS TO BUGS.



THE HUMAN YOU SEEK OUT IS HERE. NOW GIVE ME THE GOLD!





BENNY,
I STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHY YOU
CALLED US.



I FIGURED
YOU KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT
STUFF LIKE THIS THAT YOU
MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP US.
BUT MOSTLY, I CALLED YOU
BECAUSE I'M FREAKED
OUT, MISTY.

WE THOUGHT
THIS MIGHT BE A METH LAB...
YOU KNOW, BECAUSE THE TRAFFIC
IN AND OUT OF THE BUILDING HAS
BEEN LIKE GRAND CENTRAL STATION
DURING RUSH HOUR. UNFORTUNATELY,
BY THE TIME WE OBTAINED A
PROPER WARRANT, THE
WORD WAS OUT.



SO THEY
BROKE FOR COVER,
LEAVING THIS
BEHIND.

BENNY,
YOU'VE BEEN ON THE
FORCE THIRTY YEARS.
I THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN
EVERYTHING.

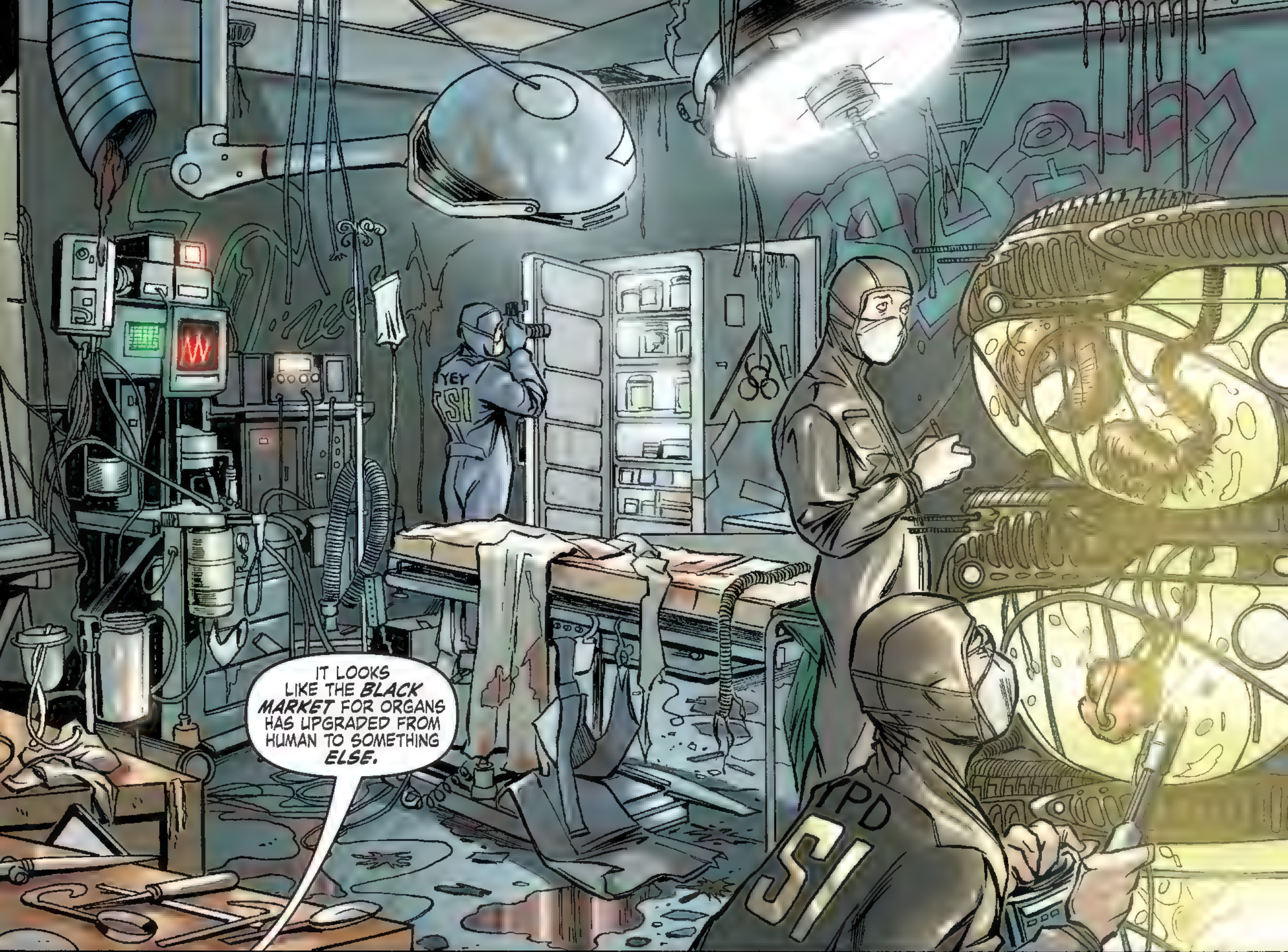
I KNOW.
BUT THE THING IS,
JUST WHEN YOU
THINK YOU'VE SEEN
IT ALL...



OH, MAN...

DAMN...
THIS LOOKS
LIKE...

YEAH, I
KNOW.



IT LOOKS LIKE THE **BLACK MARKET** FOR ORGANS HAS UPGRADED FROM HUMAN TO SOMETHING ELSE.



BENNY, I'M GONNA NEED ONE OF THOSE ORGAN BOXES.

WHAT ABOUT THE MISSION? CAN'T THIS WAIT? WHAT IF CAP MOVES LOCATIONS?

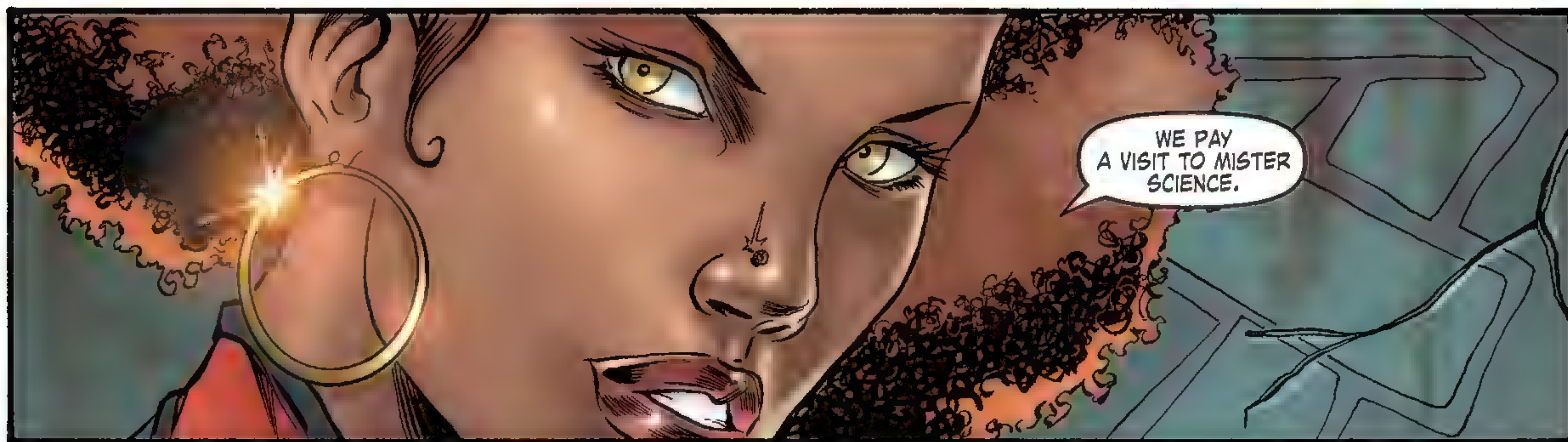
NO, THIS CAN'T WAIT.



CHINESE DEMONS, BLACK MARKET ORGANS... THIS HAS TO BE THE STRANGEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE.

THAT'S FUNNY, HUMBUG, I THOUGHT YOU'D FEEL RIGHT AT HOME IN ALL OF THIS WEIRDNESS.

WHERE TO NEXT, MISTY?



WE PAY A VISIT TO MISTER SCIENCE.

ONE HOUR LATER...

DEFINITELY
SKRULL DNA FUSED
WITH SOME UNKNOWN
SYNTHETIC ORGANIC
MATERIAL.

WHERE DID
YOU FIND IT?

UP AROUND
110TH STREET.

HYPOTHESIS,
PROFESSOR?

ILLEGAL ORGAN
TRANSPLANTS ARE
NOTHING NEW. WHOEVER
IS GETTING THESE
ORGANS PROBABLY
EXPECTS TO ABSORB
SKRULL GENETIC
TRAITS.

OR THERE'S
A BUNCH OF
SICK SKRULLS IN
MANHATTAN.

THAT SEEMS
UNLIKELY. YOU REMEMBER
THERE WAS A CULT OF HUMANS
ADDING MUTANT ORGANS TO
THEIR BODIES...

THE U-MEN.

OKAY, SO
LET'S SAY THE NEW
FUN IS SKRULL IMPLANTS.
PEOPLE HAVE ENOUGH
TROUBLE TAKING TRANSPLANTED
ORGANS FROM OTHER HUMANS.
I HAVE TO THINK THIS IS MORE
DANGEROUS ON A NUMBER
OF LEVELS.

NOT NECESSARILY. SKRULLS
ARE EXTREMELY ADAPTABLE. IT IS POSSIBLE
THEIR ORGANS WOULD FUNCTION BETTER WHEN
MOVED TO AN ALIEN BIOORGANIC ENVIRONMENT
BY SIMPLY MIMICKING THEIR SURROUNDINGS.

UNLESS SKRULL
CELLS ARE CAPABLE OF
SENTIENT THOUGHT. GIVEN THE
NATURE OF THEIR SHAPE-SHIFTING
ABILITIES, THE LIKELIHOOD OF
MEMORY BEING TRANSFERRED
ON A CELLULAR LEVEL
IS VERY HIGH.

WOULDN'T
YOU AGREE,
DOCTOR
RICHARDS?

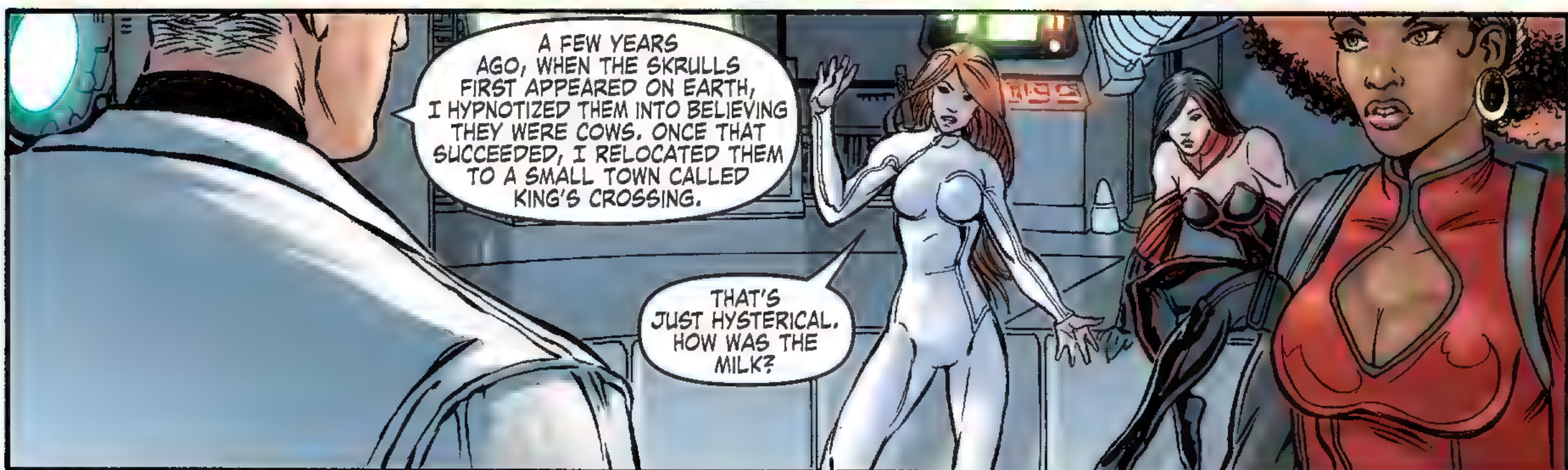


CHECK OUT THE BIG BRAIN ON MARIA. WHO ARE YOU, CONSTANCE BRENNAN?

WHO?

KING'S CROSSING...

I'M SORRY, WHAT?



A FEW YEARS AGO, WHEN THE SKRULLS FIRST APPEARED ON EARTH, I HYPNOTIZED THEM INTO BELIEVING THEY WERE COWS. ONCE THAT SUCCEEDED, I RELOCATED THEM TO A SMALL TOWN CALLED KING'S CROSSING.

THAT'S JUST HYSTERICAL. HOW WAS THE MILK?



IT ISN'T AS FUNNY AS IT SOUNDS, COLLEEN. THE COW SKRULLS PRODUCED MILK, WHICH THEN CAUSED THE TOWNSPEOPLE OF KING'S CROSSING TO MUTATE.

THEY MAINTAINED AN INSULAR COMMUNITY AND, DUE TO THE PLACID NATURE OF COWS, THEY DID NOT DEVELOP THE MILITANT ATTITUDES INHERENT IN SKRULL DNA.

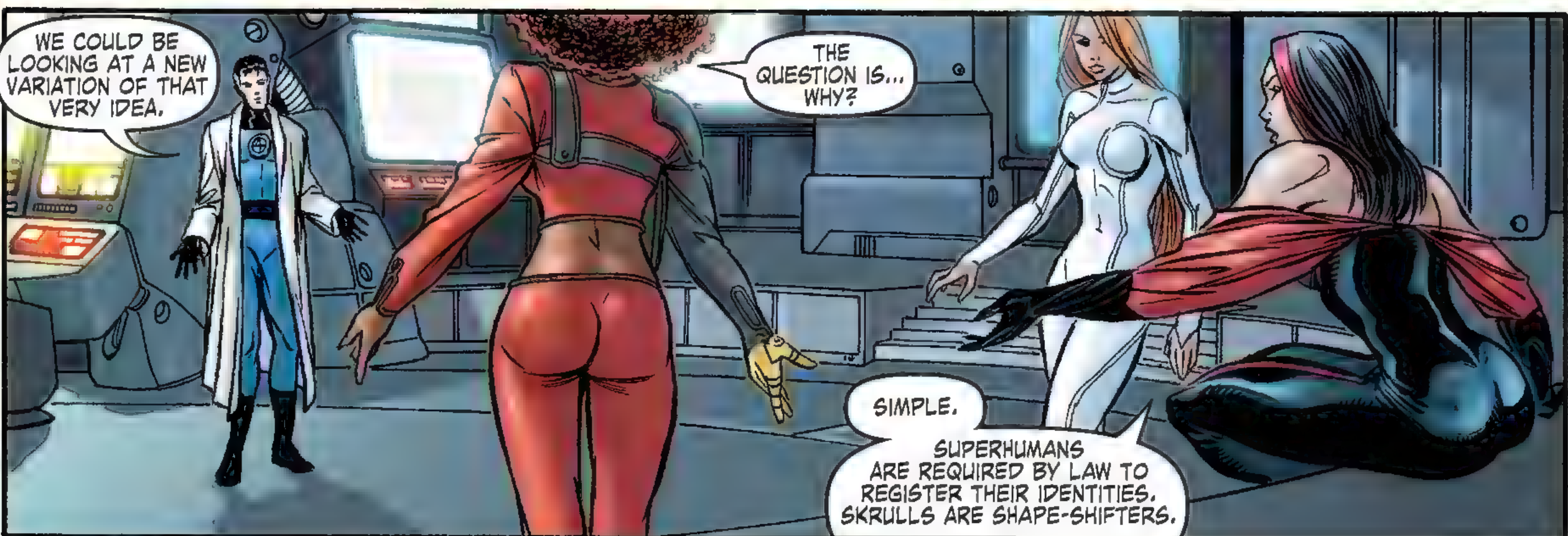
SKRULL MILK LED TO SKRULL BURGERS...



SKRULL BURGERS...?

WHICH LED TO THE SKRULL KILL KREW.

ARE YOU HAVING FUN WITH ME?

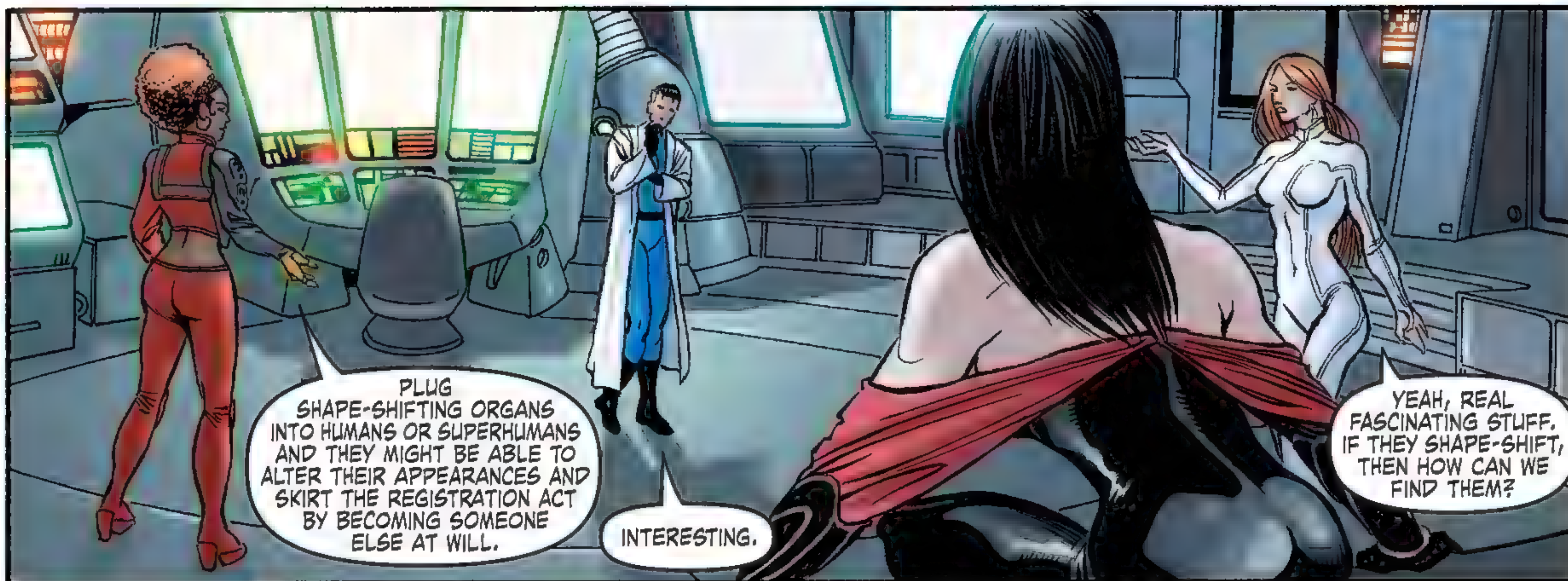


WE COULD BE LOOKING AT A NEW VARIATION OF THAT VERY IDEA.

THE QUESTION IS... WHY?

SIMPLE.

SUPERHUMANS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER THEIR IDENTITIES. SKRULLS ARE SHAPE-SHIFTERS.



PLUG
SHAPE-SHIFTING ORGANS
INTO HUMANS OR SUPERHUMANS
AND THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO
ALTER THEIR APPEARANCES AND
SKIRT THE REGISTRATION ACT
BY BECOMING SOMEONE
ELSE AT WILL.

INTERESTING.

YEAH, REAL
FASCINATING STUFF.
IF THEY SHAPE-SHIFT,
THEN HOW CAN WE
FIND THEM?



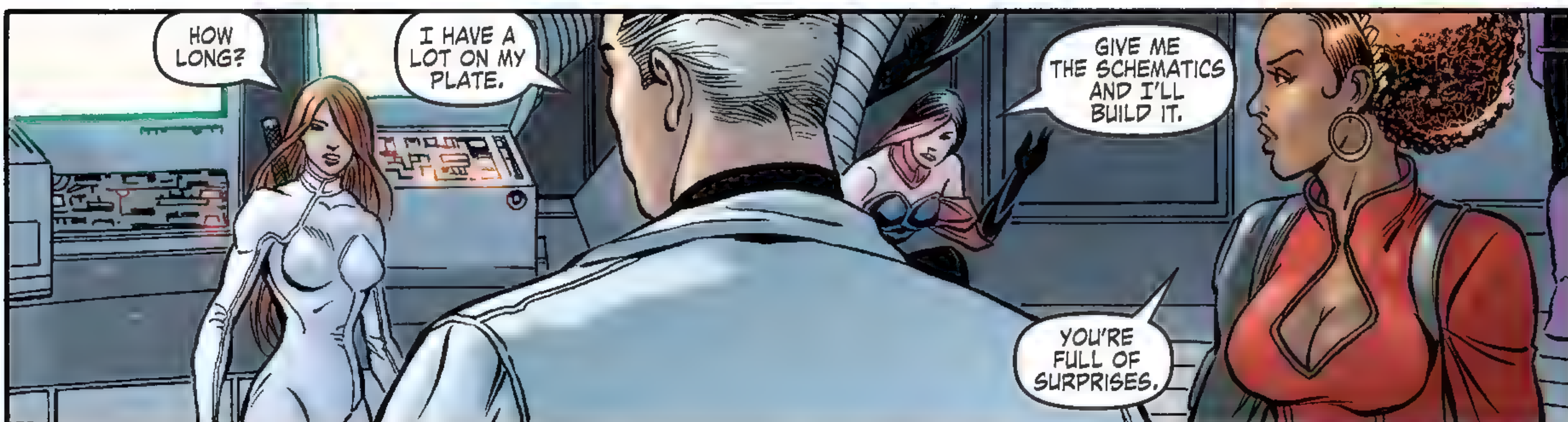
WE DON'T KNOW
FOR SURE THAT'S
WHAT WE'RE DEALING
WITH, BUT...

GADGET TIME!
THAT'S WHAT I'M
TALKING ABOUT.
ANY IDEAS?



I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT A
BIOSCAN THAT SPECIFICALLY TARGETS
THE SYNTHETIC ORGANIC COMPOUND
USED TO GROW THE SAMPLE YOU
BROUGHT ME.

I NEED
MORE TIME TO
ANALYZE IT,
THOUGH.



HOW
LONG?

I HAVE A
LOT ON MY
PLATE.

GIVE ME
THE SCHEMATICS
AND I'LL
BUILD IT.

YOU'RE
FULL OF
SURPRISES.



YOU HAVE
NO IDEA.

SO, NOW
THAT WE GOT THIS
SETTLED, CAN WE GET
ON WITH THE MISSION
NOW?

RIGHT AFTER
WE PICK UP
BLACK CAT.

40 MINUTES LATER...

WHY DIDN'T FURY USE THE USUAL CHANNELS?

...AT A HIDDEN S.H.I.E.L.D. SAFE HOUSE.

NICK SAID IT WAS TOO IMPORTANT TO RISK TRANSMITTING.

I DON'T LIKE HAVING YOU OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS.

WHATEVER HAPPENS, I'M SURE YOU AND I CAN HANDLE IT, LUKE.

MY GOD...

TONY, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

WHAT IS IT?

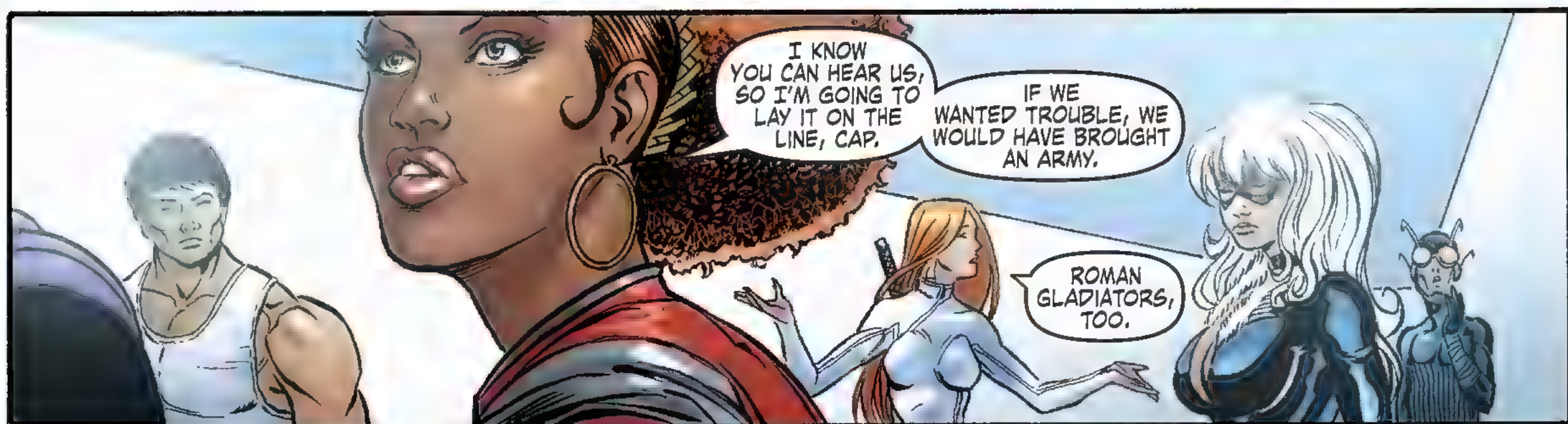
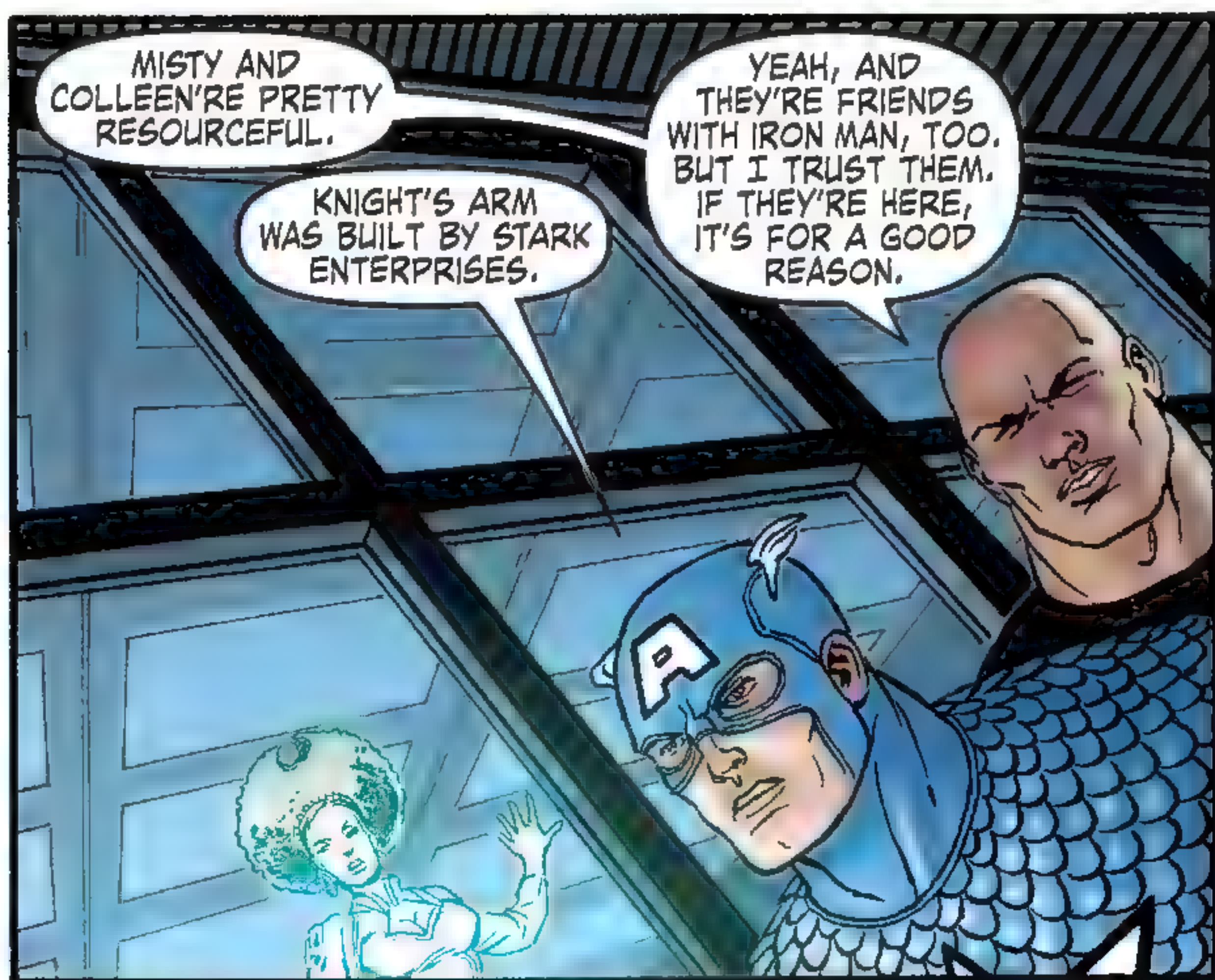
THOSE ARE...

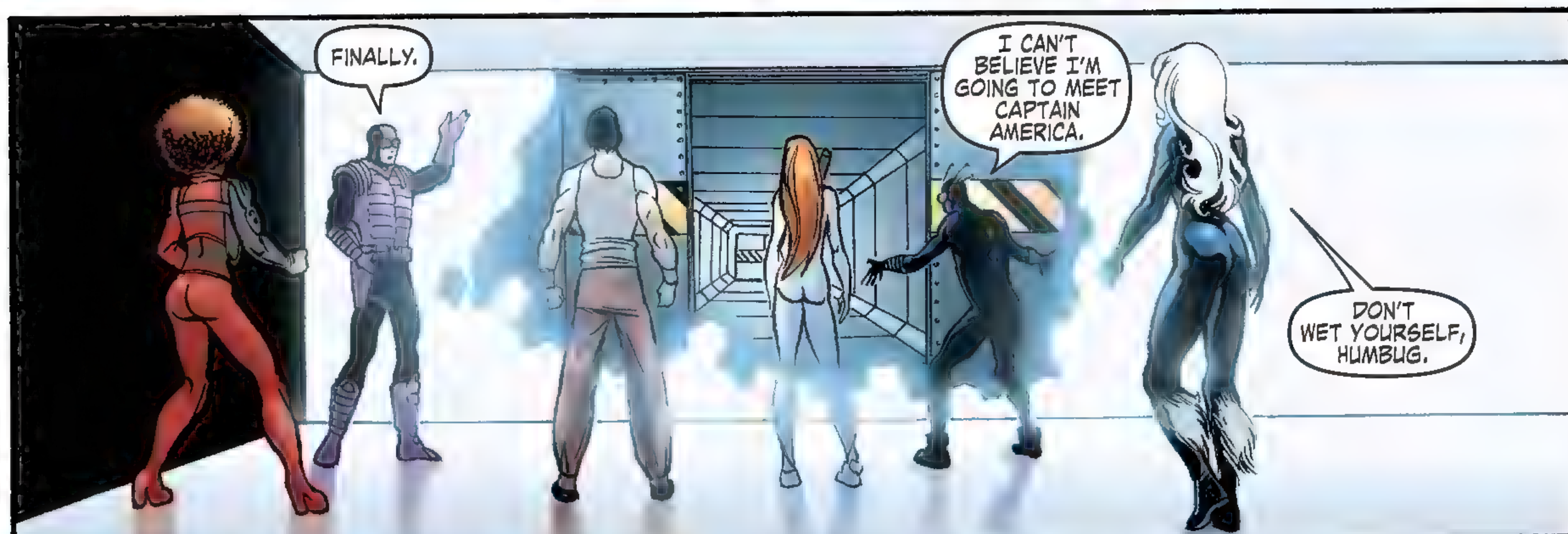
...PEOPLE WE'VE PUT BEHIND BARS. THEY'VE BEEN OUTFITTED WITH SOME KIND OF **ELECTRICAL** IMPLANTS TO KEEP THEM IN CHECK.

IN THE HISTORY OF DUMB IDEAS, THIS ONE JUST JUMPED INTO THE TOP TEN.

ATTENTION, SEVEN UNKNOWN INTRUDERS ATTEMPTING TO GAIN ACCESS TO RESTRICTED AREA.

GIVE ME VISUALS.



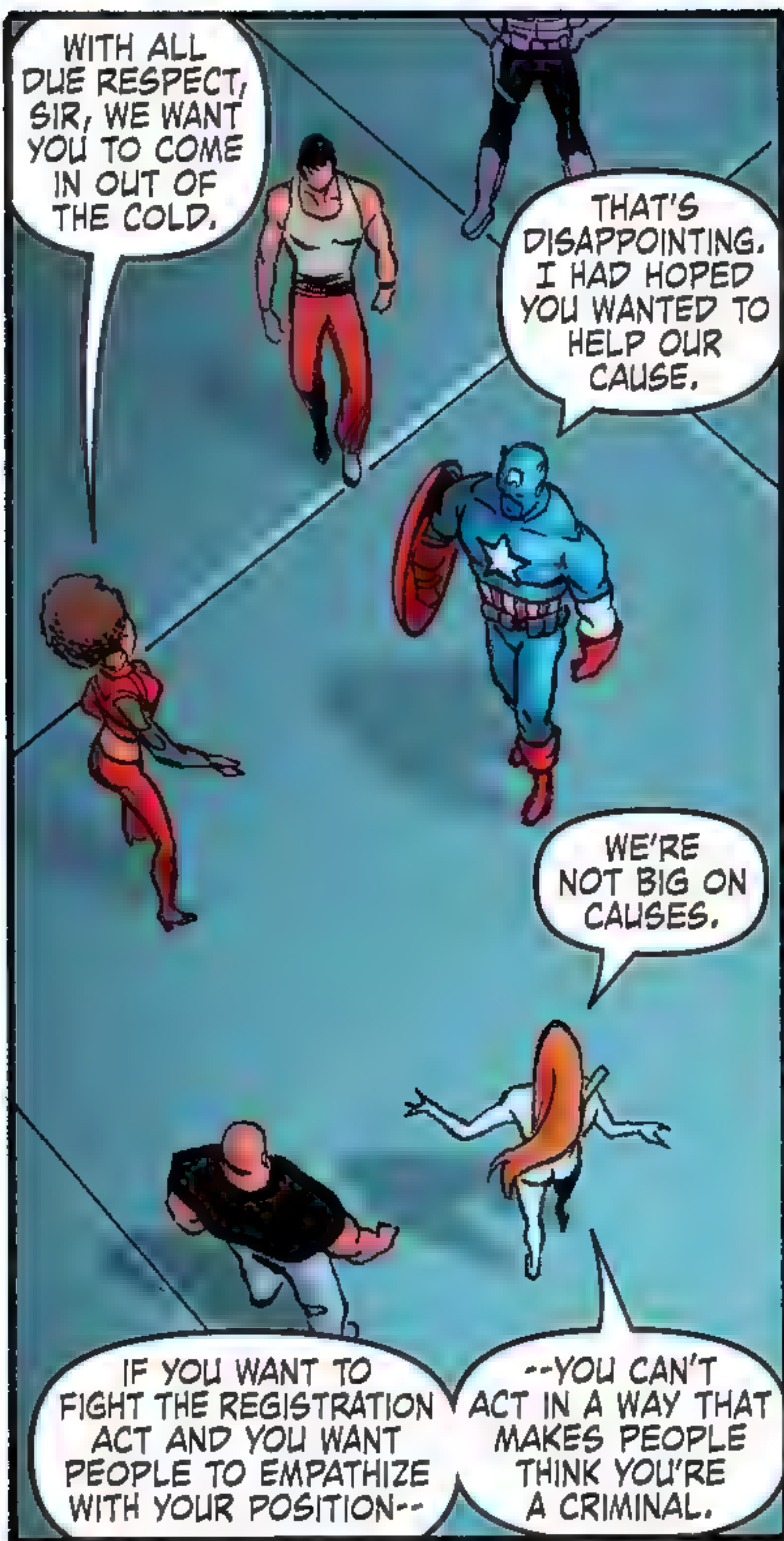




YOU WANTED TO TALK, MISTY. START TALKING.

IT'S... SIR... IT'S A HUGE HONOR...

SETTLE DOWN, HUMMER... AND LOSE THE SALUTE.



WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR, WE WANT YOU TO COME IN OUT OF THE COLD.

THAT'S DISAPPOINTING. I HAD HOPED YOU WANTED TO HELP OUR CAUSE.

WE'RE NOT BIG ON CAUSES.

IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT THE REGISTRATION ACT AND YOU WANT PEOPLE TO EMPATHIZE WITH YOUR POSITION--

--YOU CAN'T ACT IN A WAY THAT MAKES PEOPLE THINK YOU'RE A CRIMINAL.



I'M NOT SURRENDERING TO A LAW THAT CONTRADICTS EVERYTHING THIS COUNTRY STANDS FOR.

CAPTAIN AMERICA, WE'D LIKE TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT. THIS IS WITHIN YOUR GRASP.

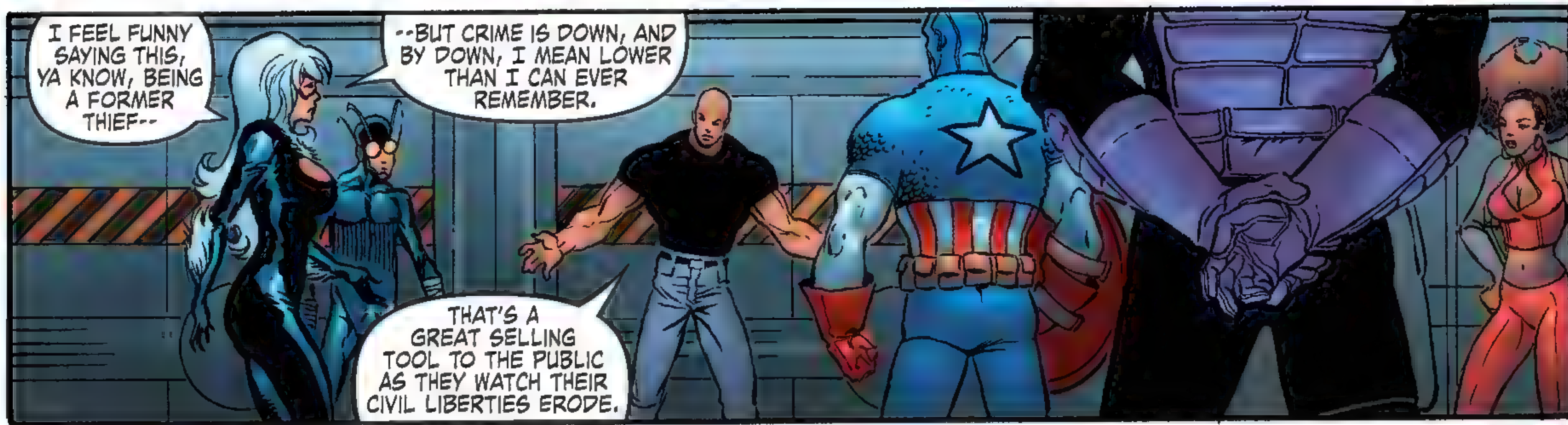
THE TERMS ARE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE.



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE THERE'S A SUPERHUMAN COP FLOATING OUTSIDE EVERY WINDOW.

NOBODY WANTS THAT.

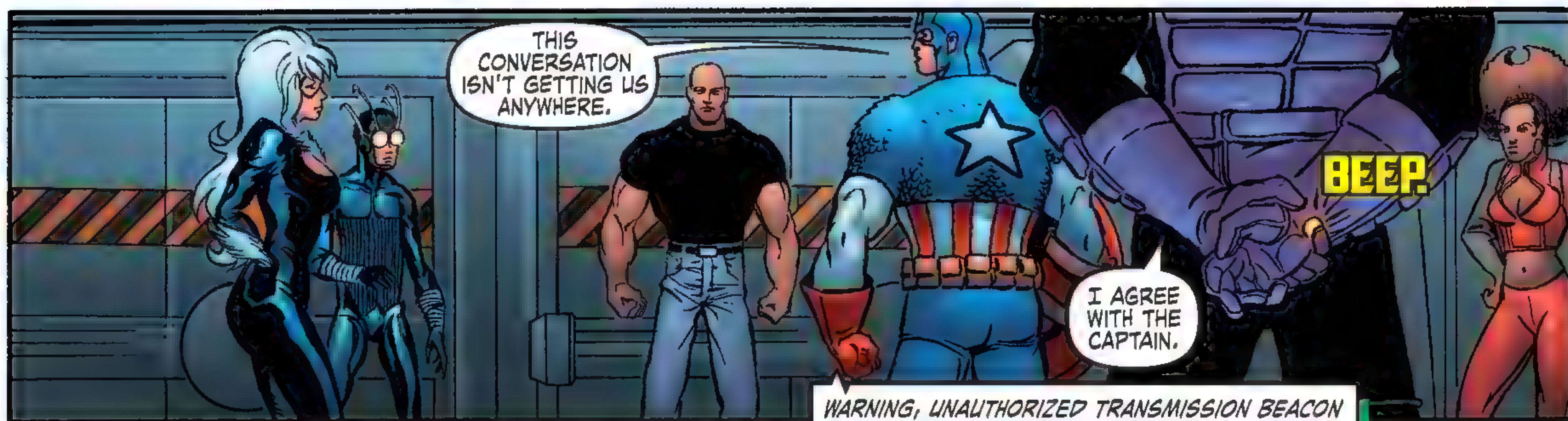
IRON MAN HAS TURNED SOME OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, OUR ENEMIES, INTO HIS PERSONAL BLOODHOUNDS.



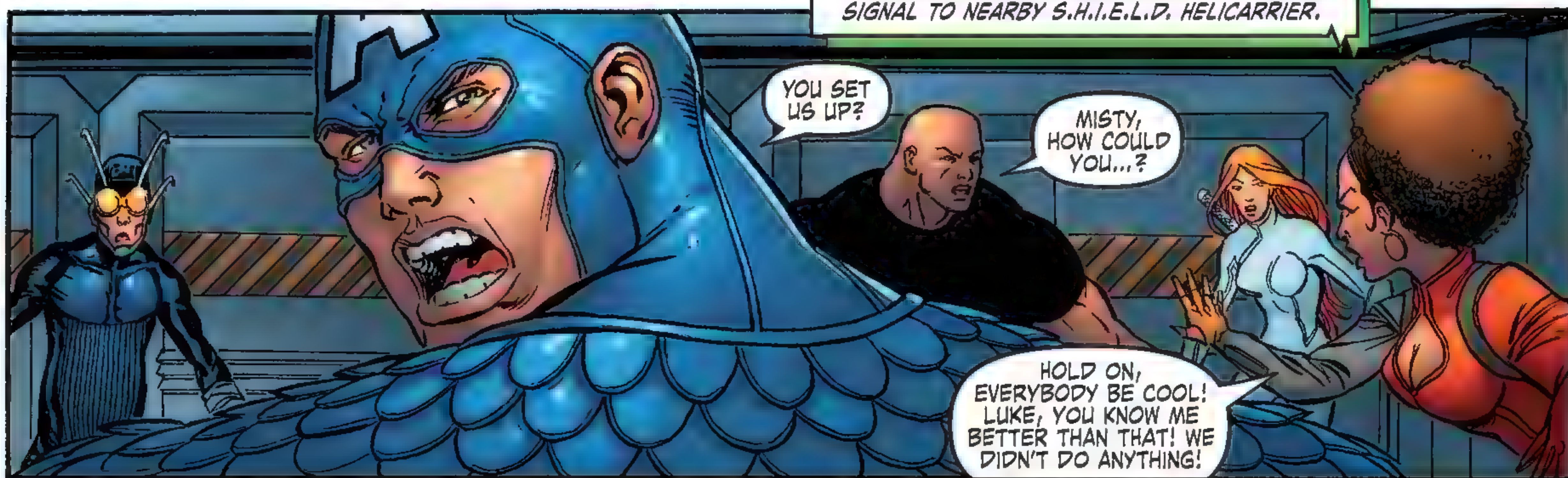
I FEEL FUNNY SAYING THIS, YA KNOW, BEING A FORMER THIEF--

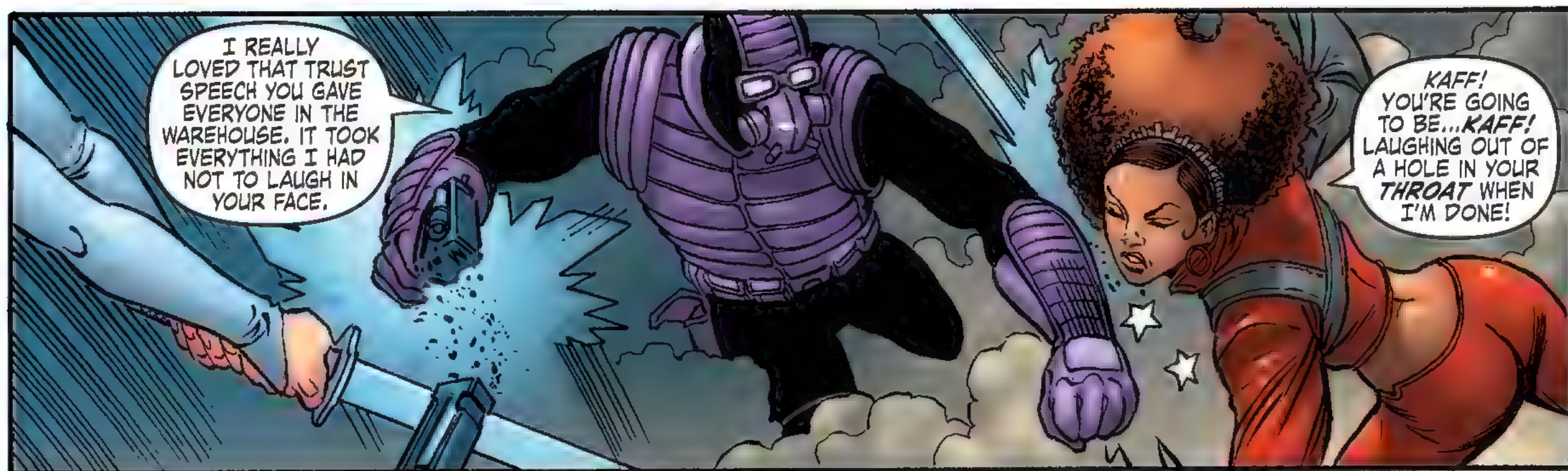
--BUT CRIME IS DOWN, AND BY DOWN, I MEAN LOWER THAN I CAN EVER REMEMBER.

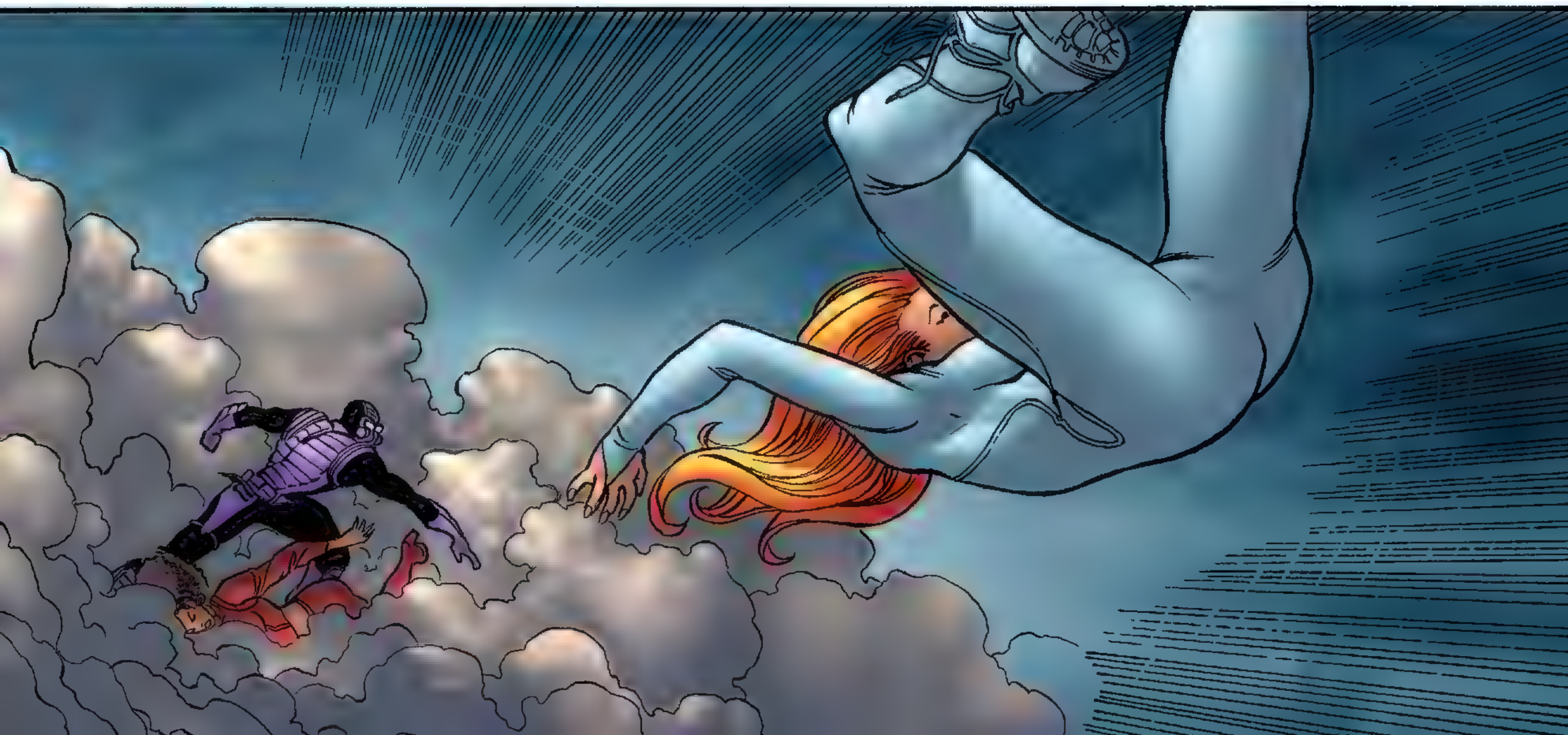
THAT'S A GREAT SELLING TOOL TO THE PUBLIC AS THEY WATCH THEIR CIVIL LIBERTIES ERODE.

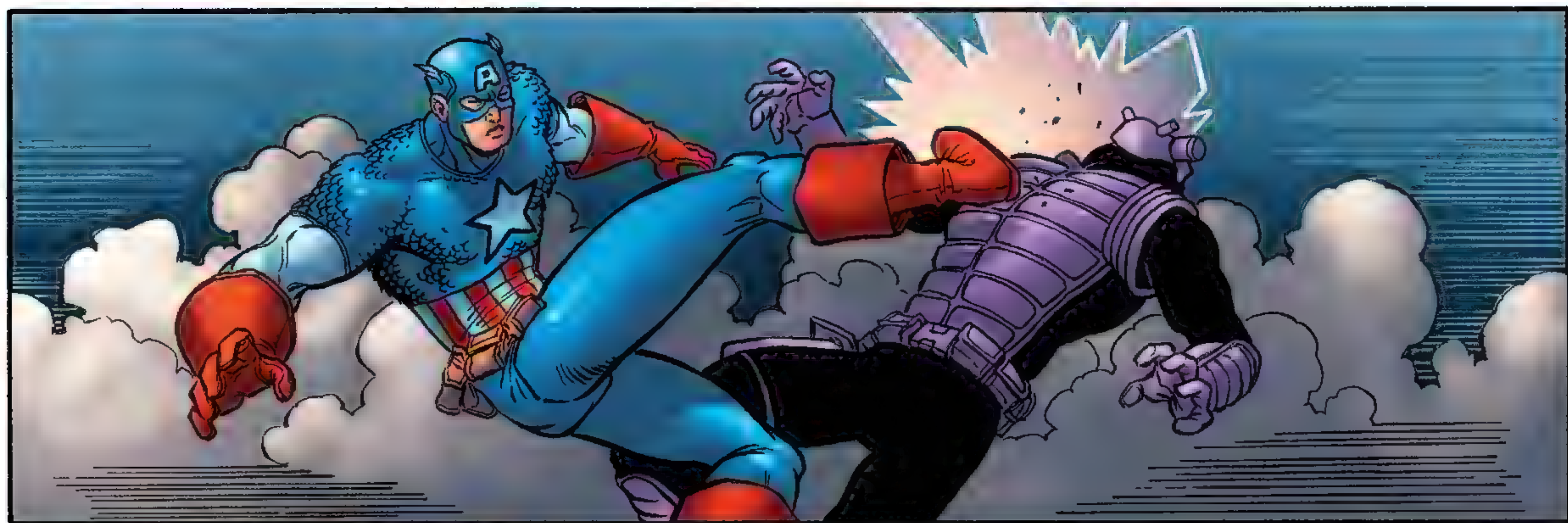
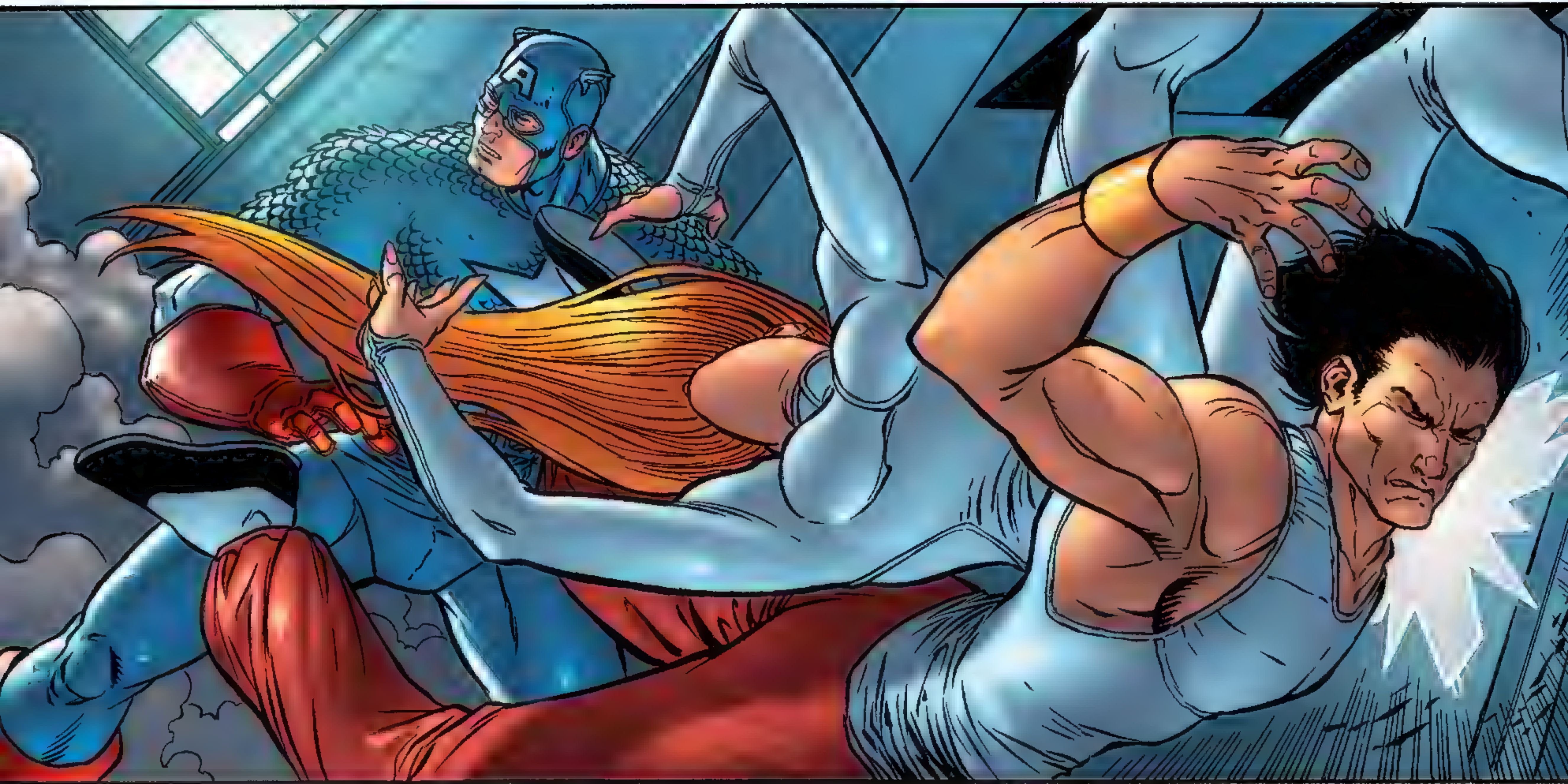


WARNING, UNAUTHORIZED TRANSMISSION BEACON ACTIVATED WITHIN SAFEHOUSE WALLS. TRACING SIGNAL TO NEARBY S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.











THIS IS
PALADIN TO
S.H.I.E.L.D.

I HAVE
SECURED CAPTAIN
AMERICA.

TO BE CONTINUED!



3

HEROES FOR HIRE™

A MARVEL® COMICS EVENT

CIVIL WAR™

PALMIOTTI
GRAY

TUCCI
PORTELA
PALMER

After Stamford, Connecticut is destroyed during a televised fight between the New Warriors and a group of dangerous villains, public sentiment turns against super heroes. Advocates call for reform, and a Superhuman Registration Act is passed which will require all those possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government, divulge their true identities to the authorities and submit to training and sanctioning in the manner of federal agents. Anyone with super-powers who refuses to register is now a criminal.

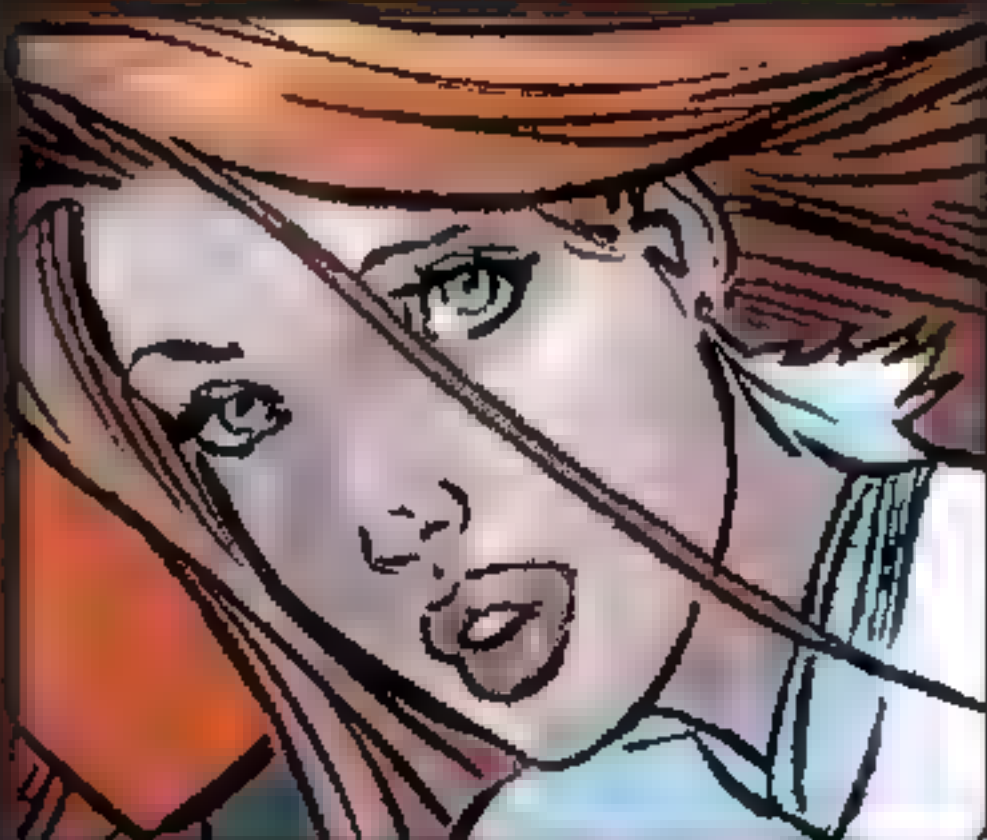
Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society and a reasonable request. Others, like Captain America, view the Act as an assault on their civil liberties, and go underground to form a resistance movement.

And then there's a third category of hero...

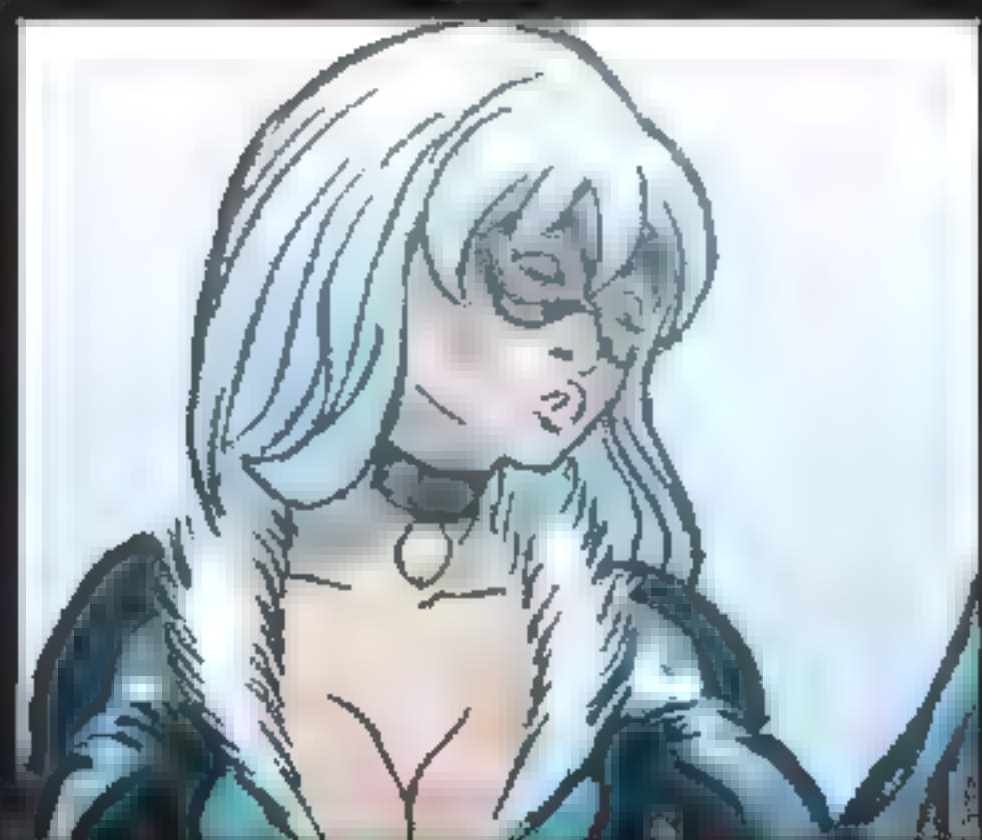
HEROES FOR HIRE



MISTY KNIGHT



COLLEEN WING



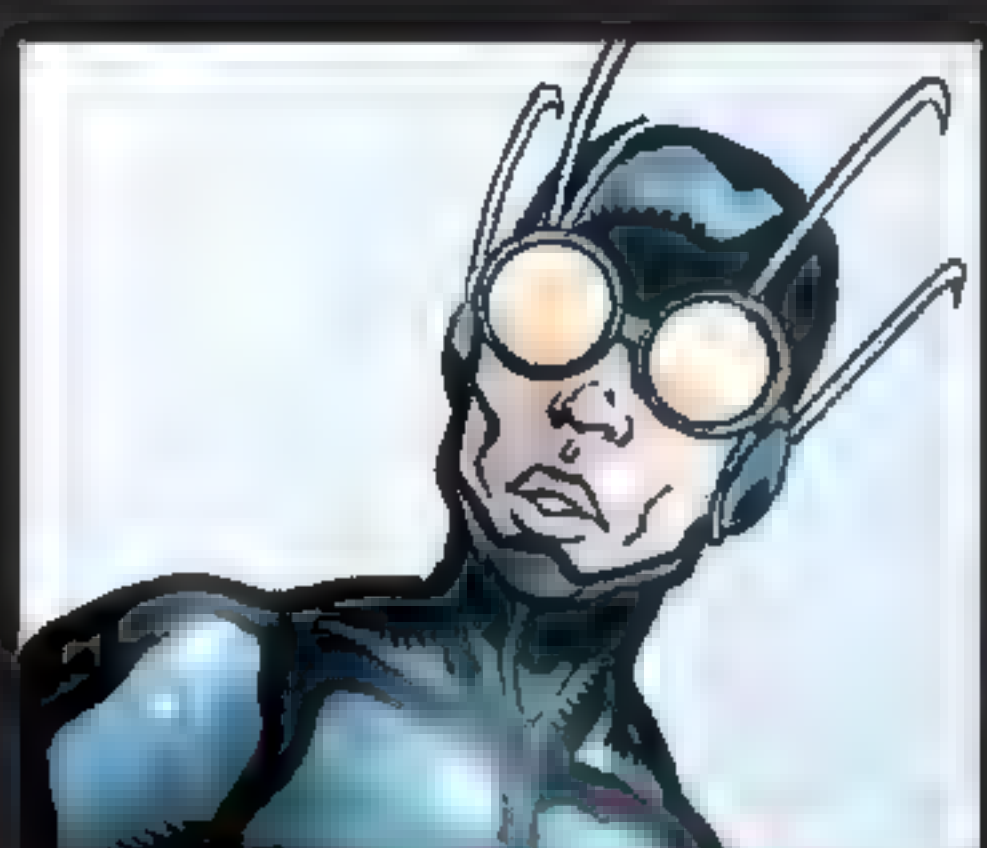
BLACK CAT



SHANG-CHI,
MASTER OF
KUNG FU



TARANTULA



HUMBUG



ORKA



PALADIN

Following a confrontation with Iron Man regarding the death of Bill Foster, a.k.a. Goliath, the Heroes for Hire set out on a mission to locate Captain America. By utilizing the powers of an imprisoned Chinese demon, Misty, Colleen, Humbug, Paladin, Black Cat and Shang Chi discovered Captain America and Luke Cage in a Manhattan-based S.H.I.E.L.D. safe house. The tense meeting turned disastrous as Paladin betrayed the team in order to capture Captain America...

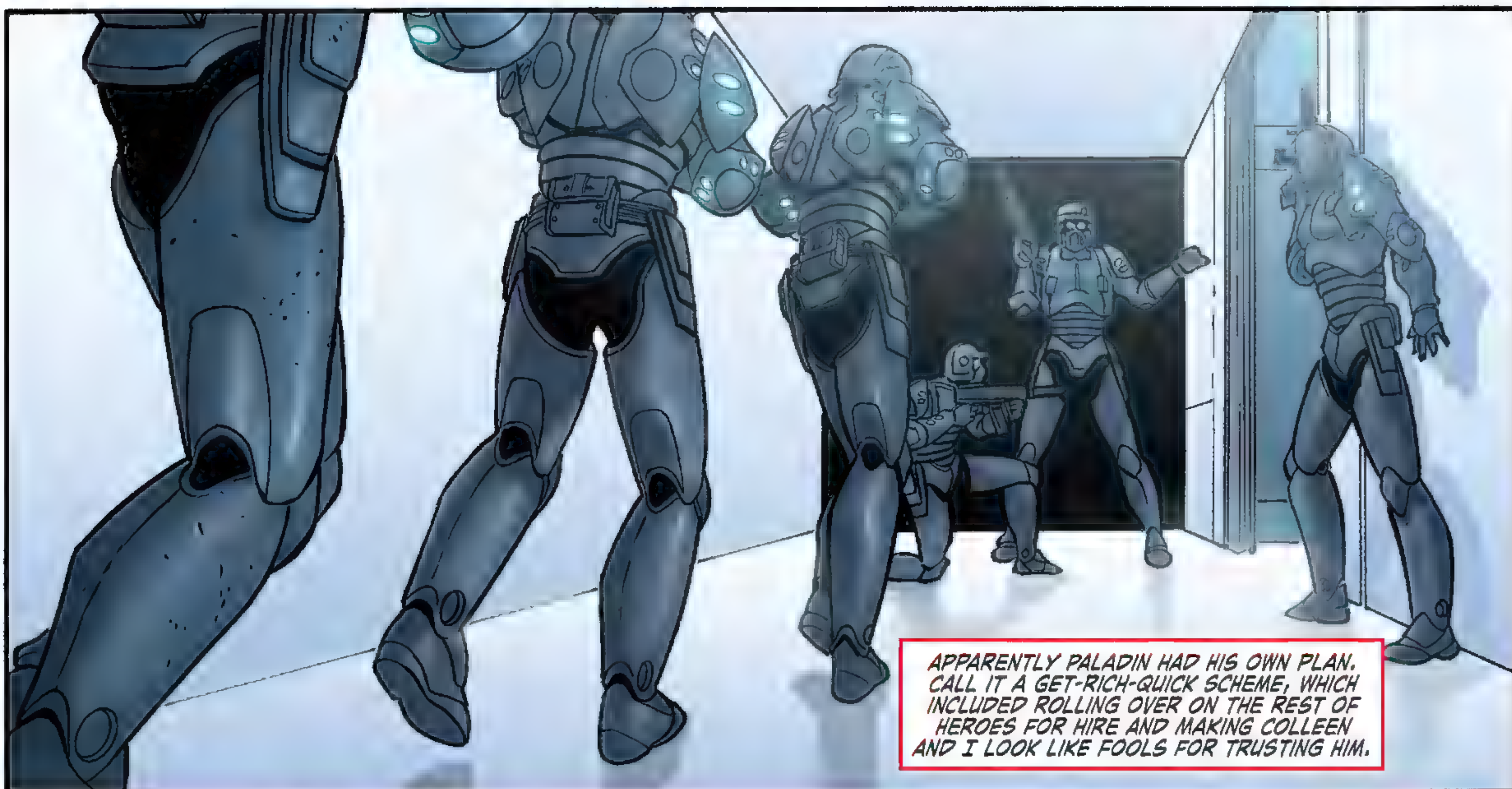
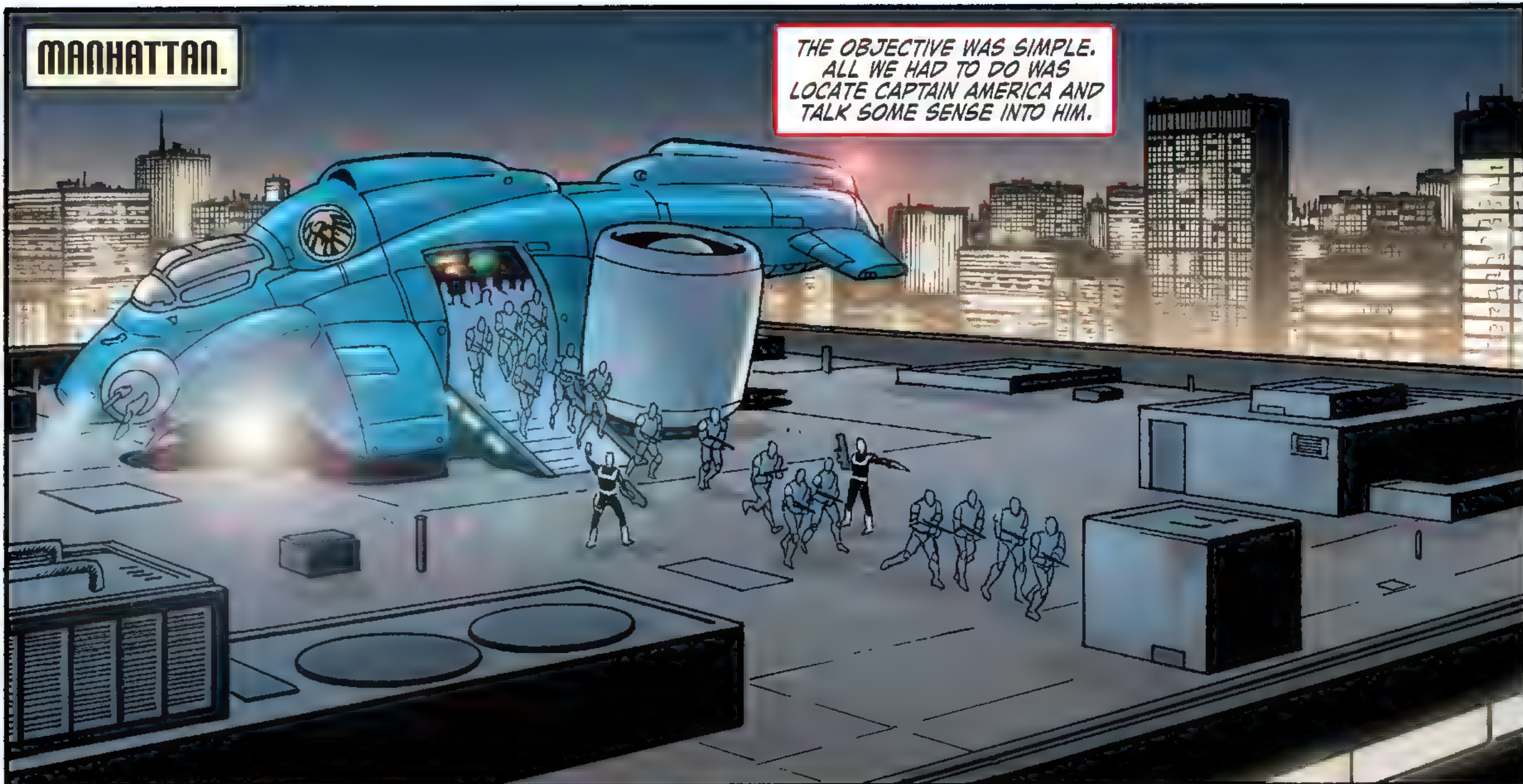
CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Writers Justin Gray & Jimmy Palmiotti	Illustrators Francis Rodella & Bill Tobin	Inker Tom Palmer	Colorist Brad Anderson	Letterer Armstrong Dave Canale	Cover Bill Tobin & Mark Sparacio
Production Kate Levin	Assistant Editor Nathan Foss	Editor Mark Paniccia	Editor In Chief Joe Quesada	Publisher Dan Buckley	

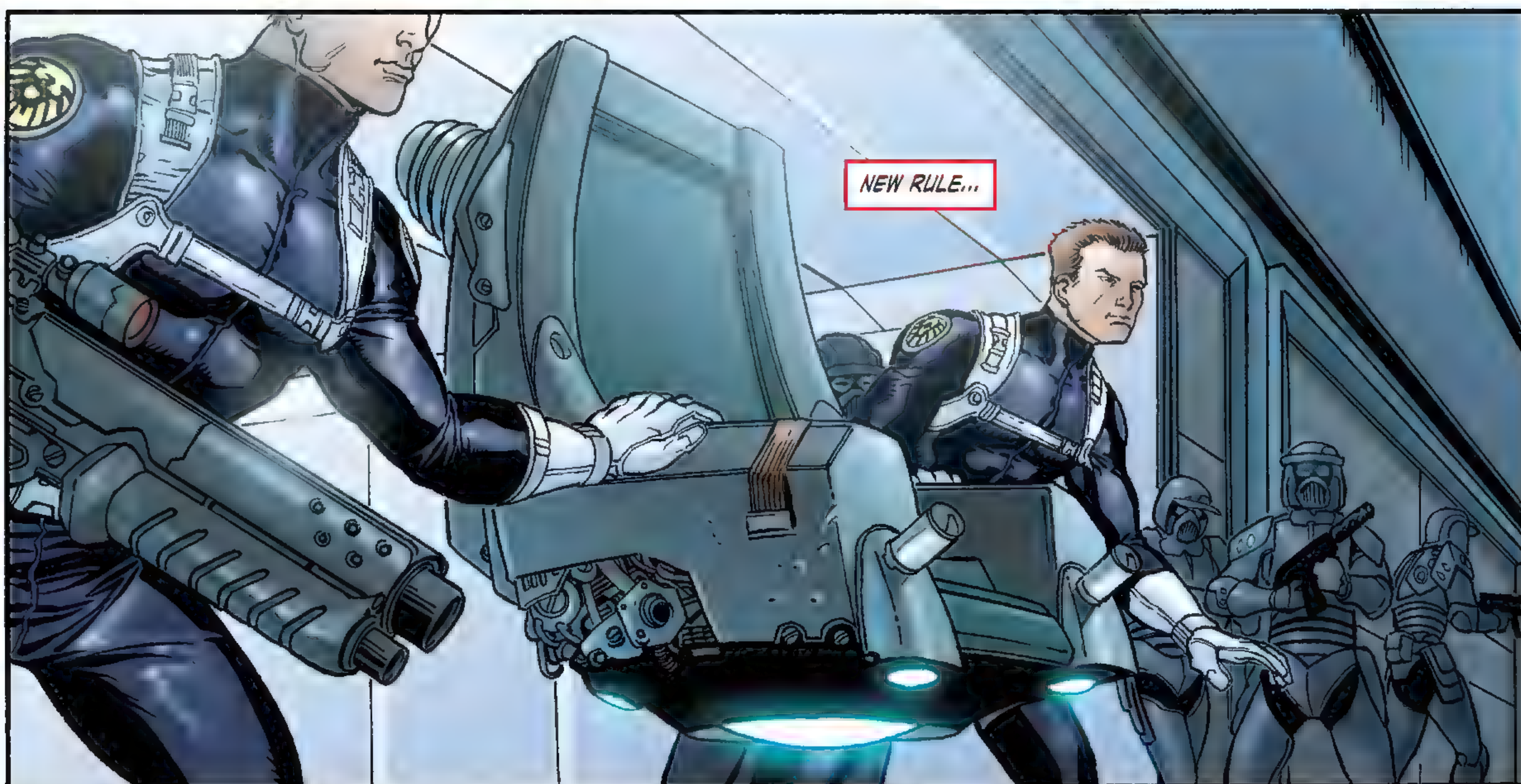
To find Marvel Comics at a local comic shop, call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

MANHATTAN.

THE OBJECTIVE WAS SIMPLE.
ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS
LOCATE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND
TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM.



APPARENTLY PALADIN HAD HIS OWN PLAN.
CALL IT A GET-RICH-QUICK SCHEME, WHICH
INCLUDED ROLLING OVER ON THE REST OF
HEROES FOR HIRE AND MAKING COLLEEN
AND I LOOK LIKE FOOLS FOR TRUSTING HIM.



NEW RULE...



NEVER TRUST A
PURPLE MERCENARY.



PALADIN!
YOU
SONOVA...



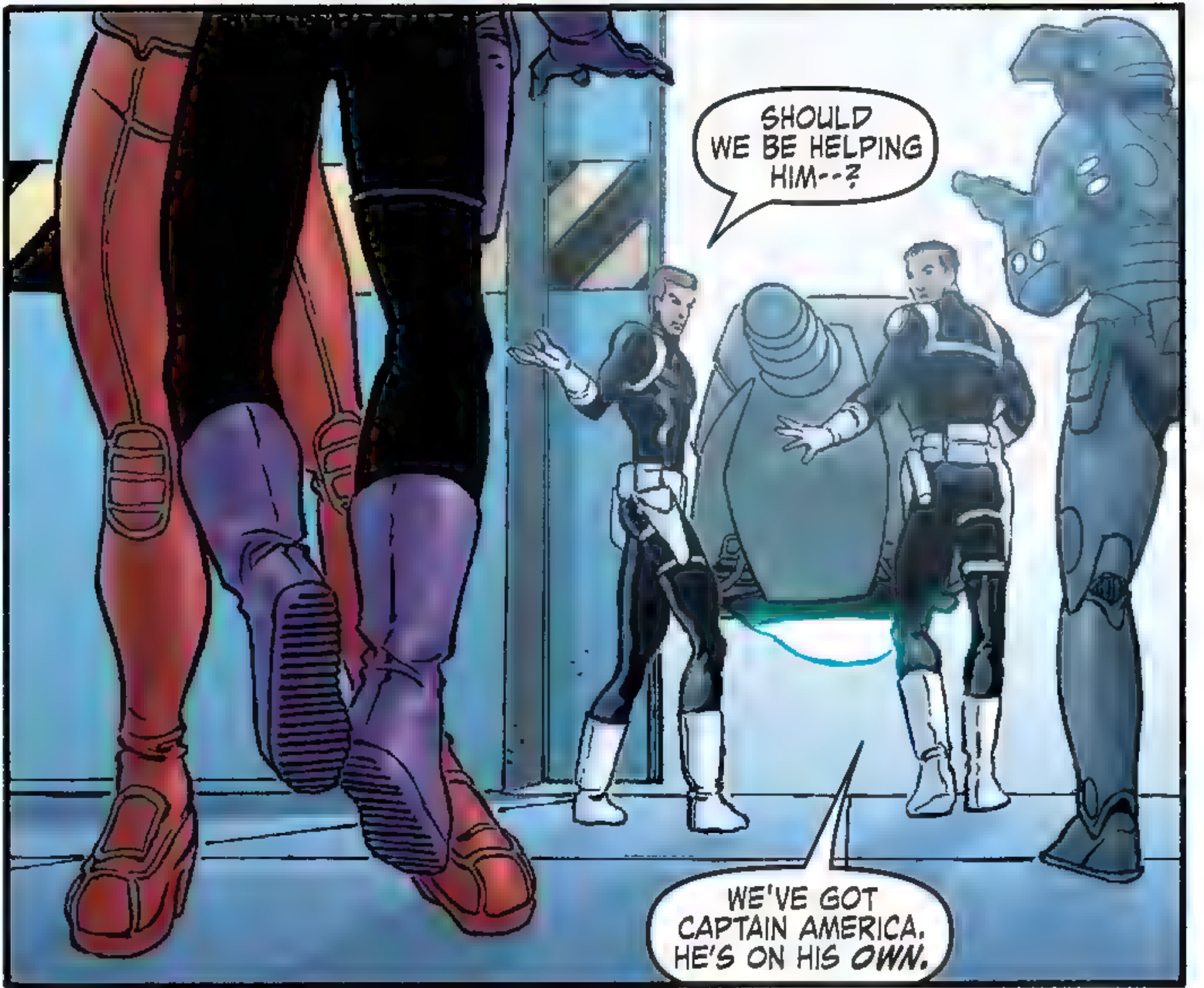
YOU KNOW
CAPTAIN AMERICA
IS A WANTED
MAN, MISTY.

NOT
BY *US* HE
ISN'T.



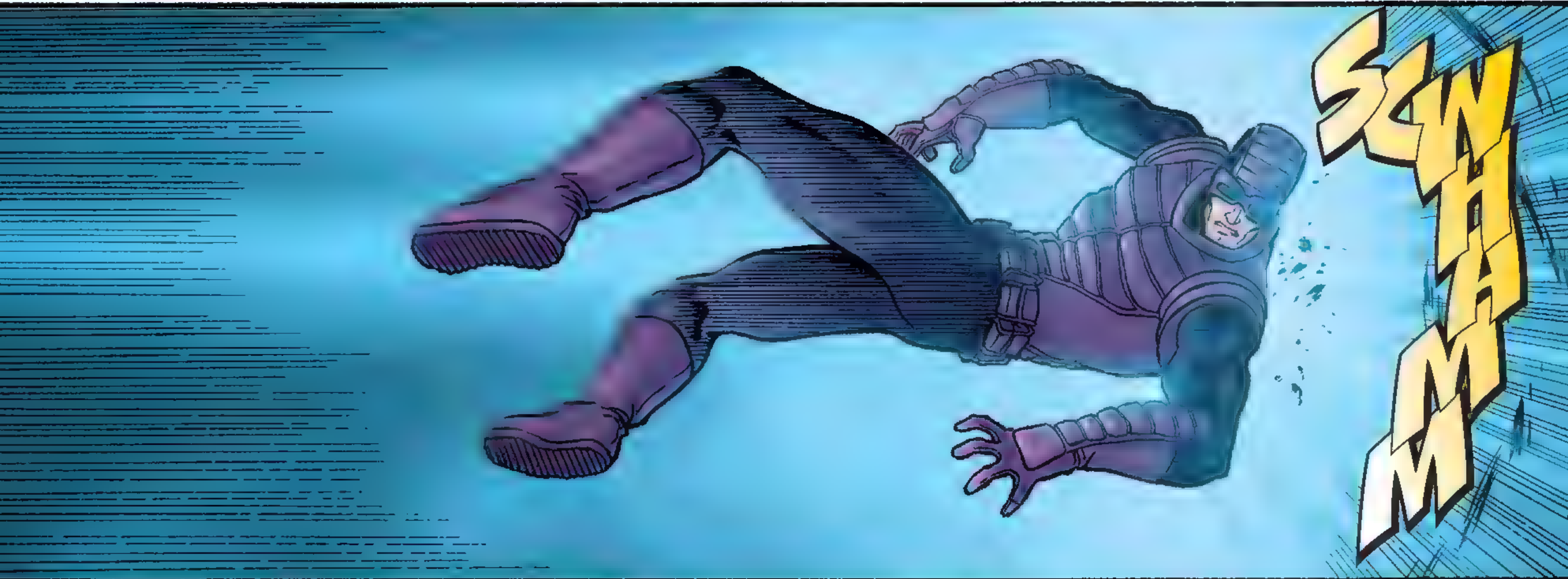
LET ME REMIND
YOU THIS ARM CAN PRODUCE
THREE THOUSAND POUNDS
OF PRESSURE PER SQUARE INCH.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS *SQUEEZE*
AND YOUR HEAD WILL
POP CLEAN OFF.

KRK

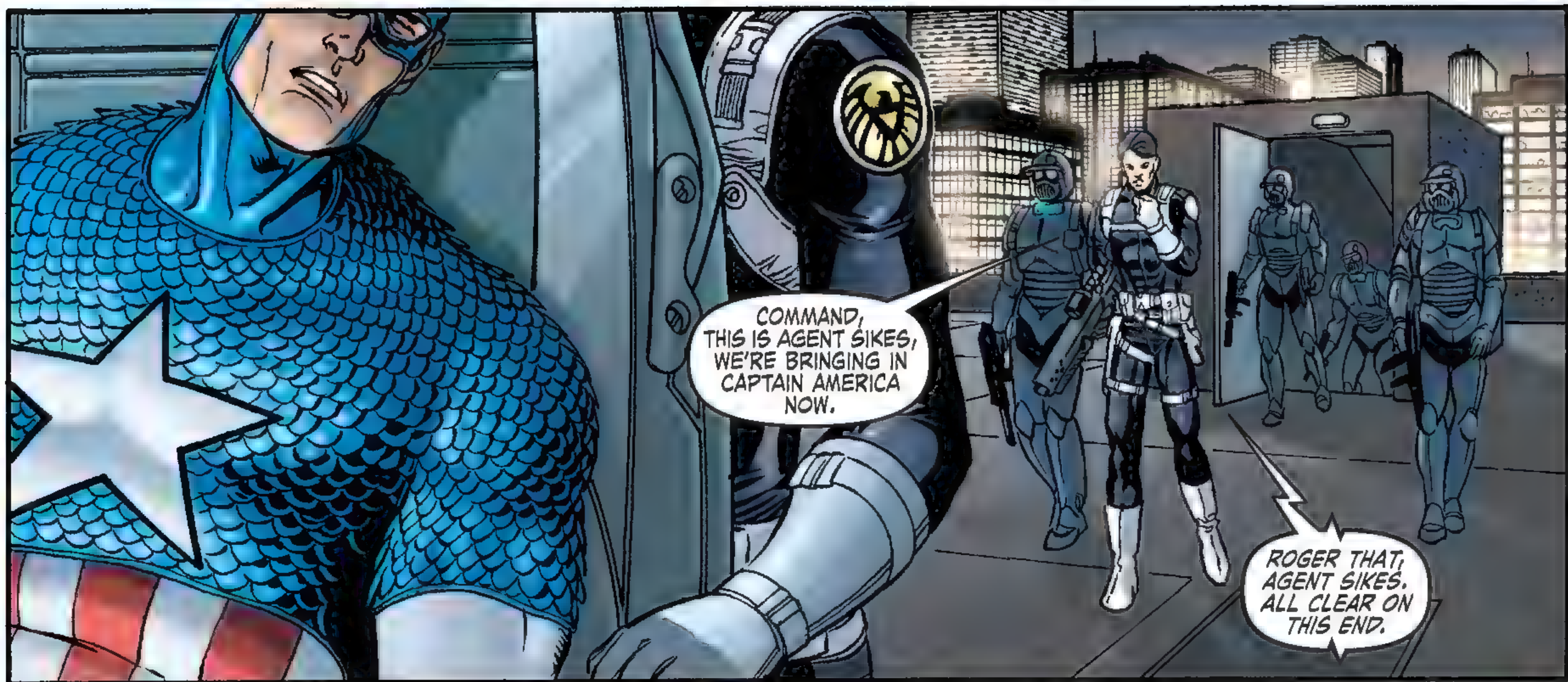


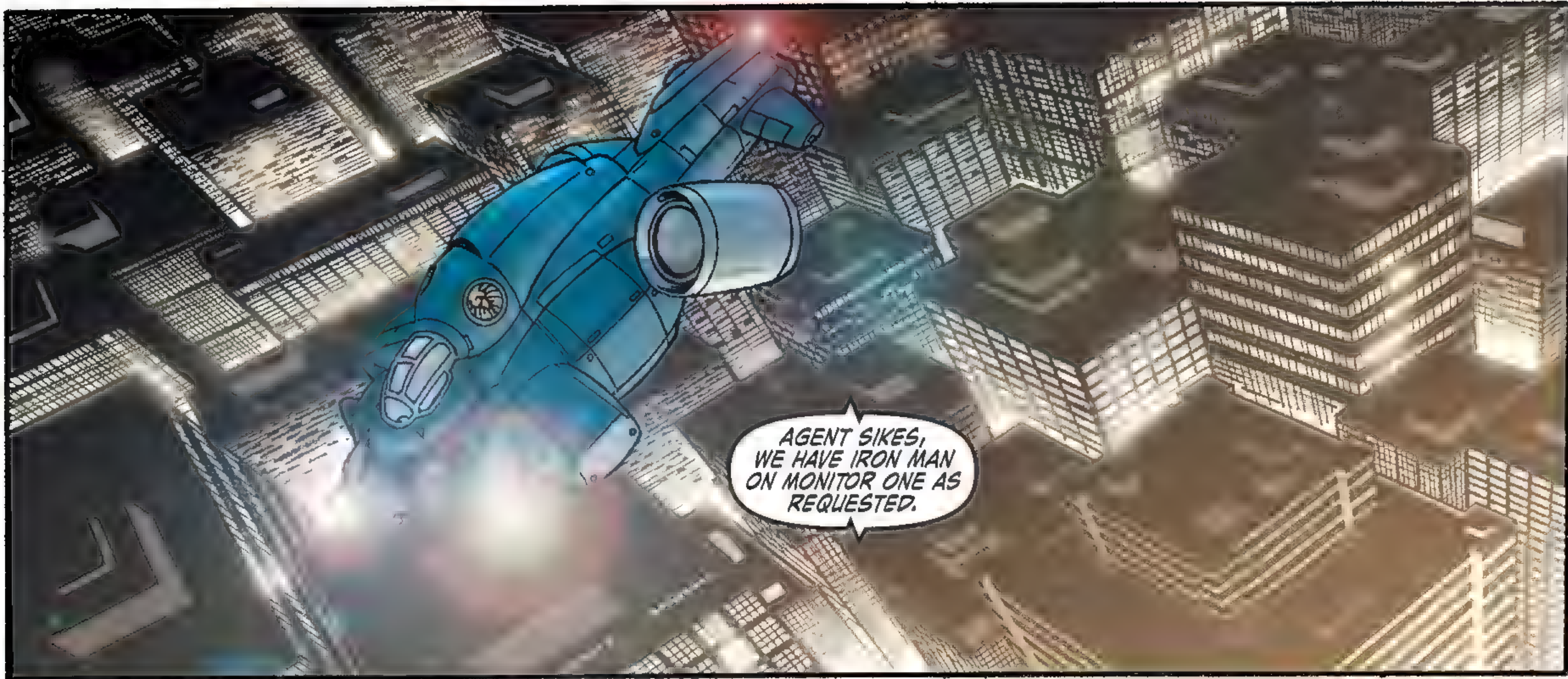
SHOULD
WE BE HELPING
HIM--?

WE'VE GOT
CAPTAIN AMERICA.
HE'S ON HIS OWN.



SCW
H
M





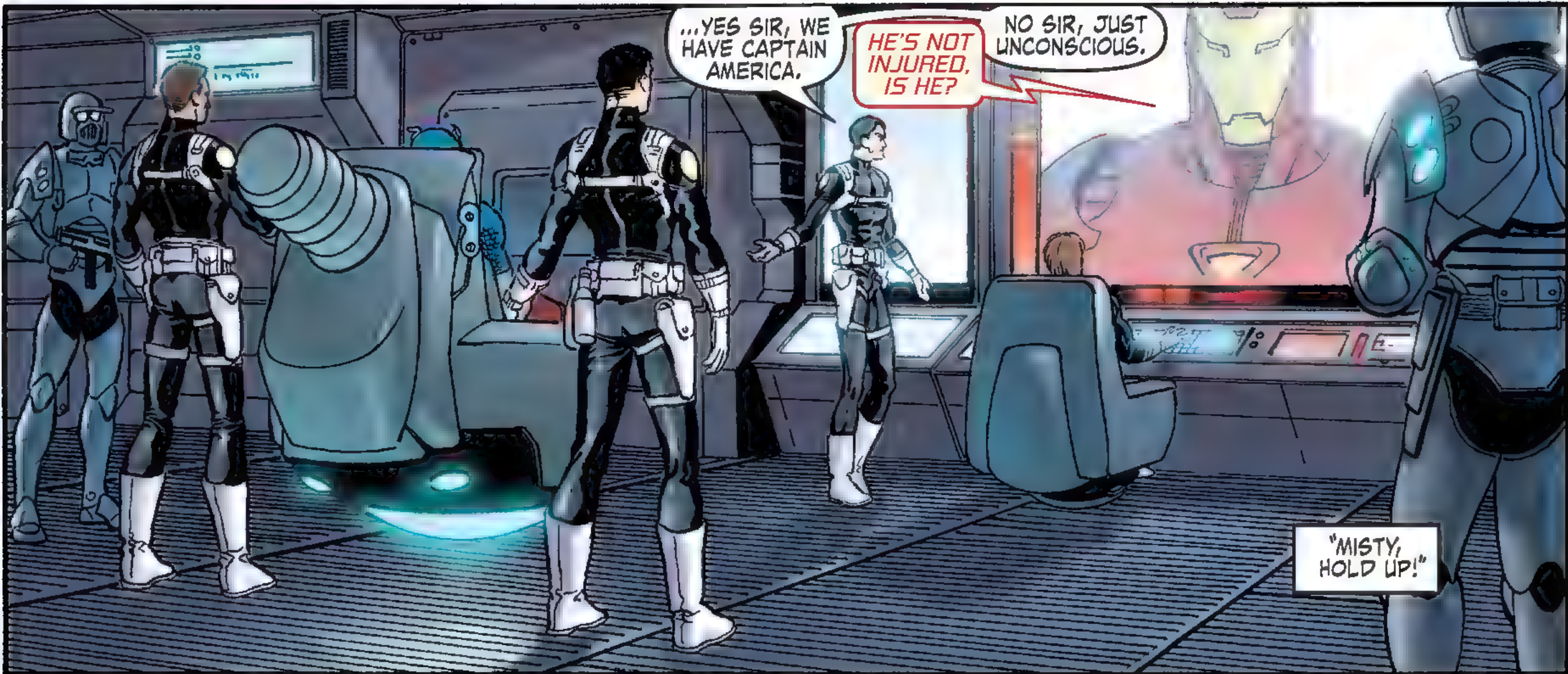
AGENT SIKES,
WE HAVE IRON MAN
ON MONITOR ONE AS
REQUESTED.



UM, MISTY...
I DON'T WANNA
INTERRUPT,
BUT...

...WHERE
DID SHANG-CHI
AND THE OTHER
GUY GO?

GOOD
QUESTION.

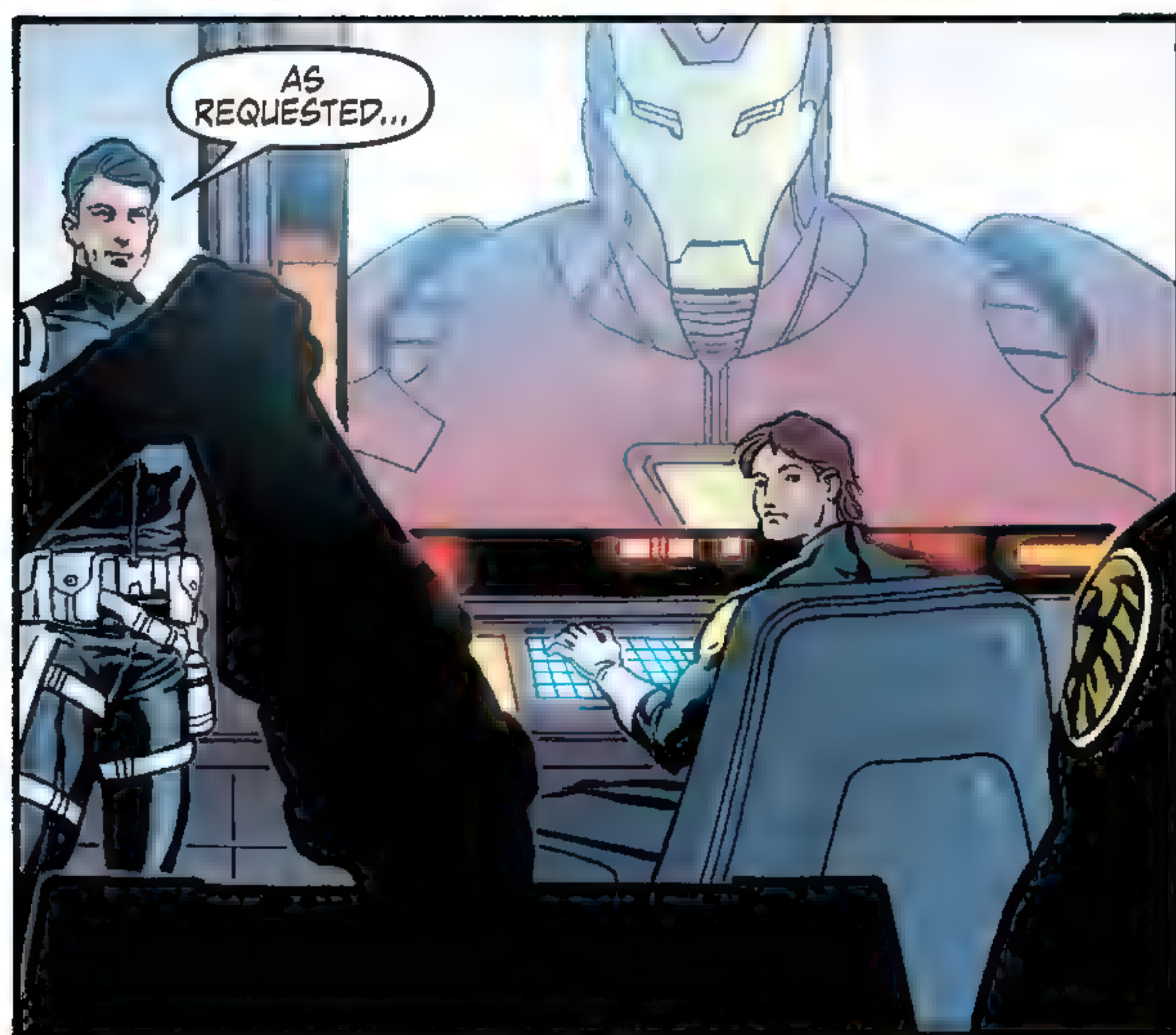


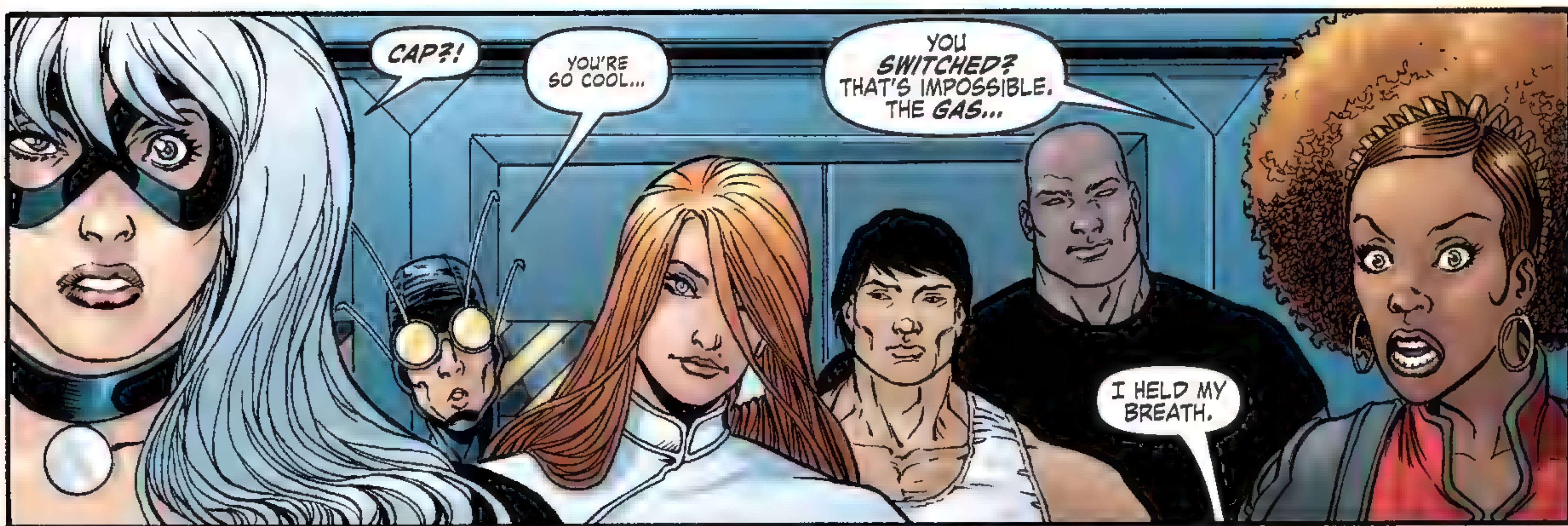
...YES SIR, WE
HAVE CAPTAIN
AMERICA.

HE'S NOT
INJURED.
IS HE?

NO SIR, JUST
UNCONSCIOUS.

"MISTY,
HOLD UP!"

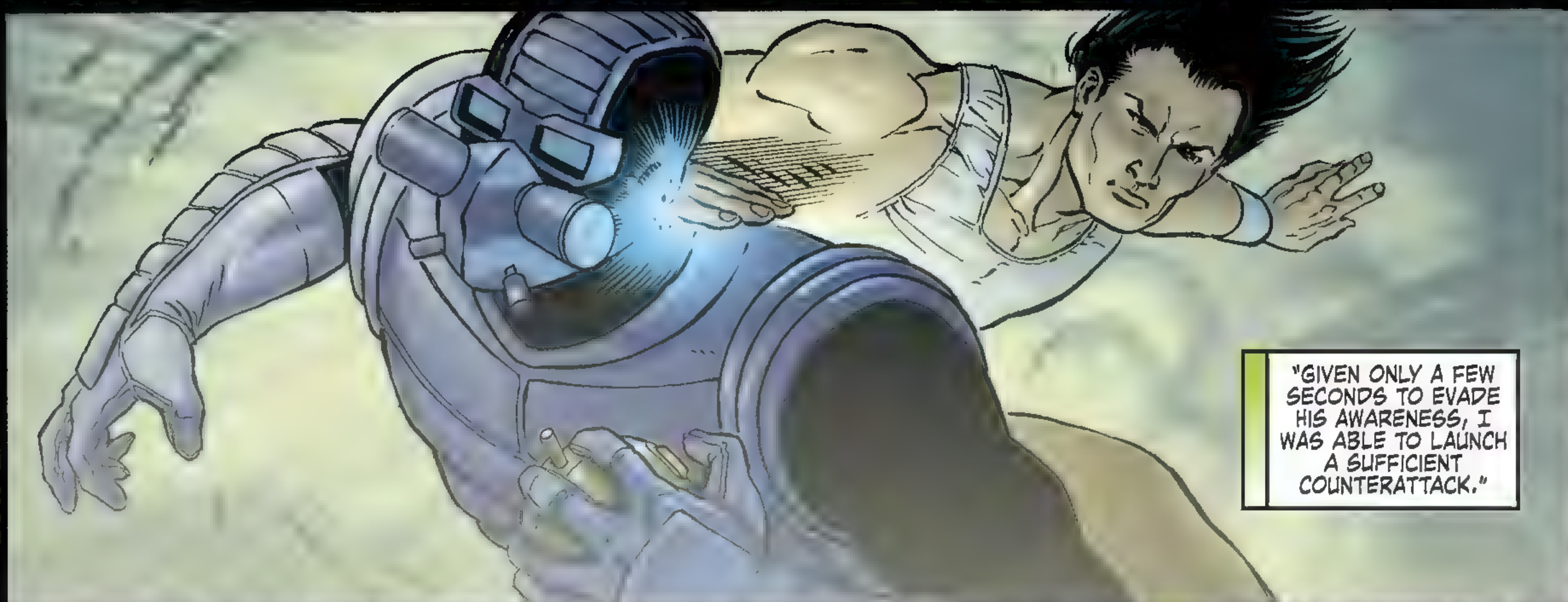




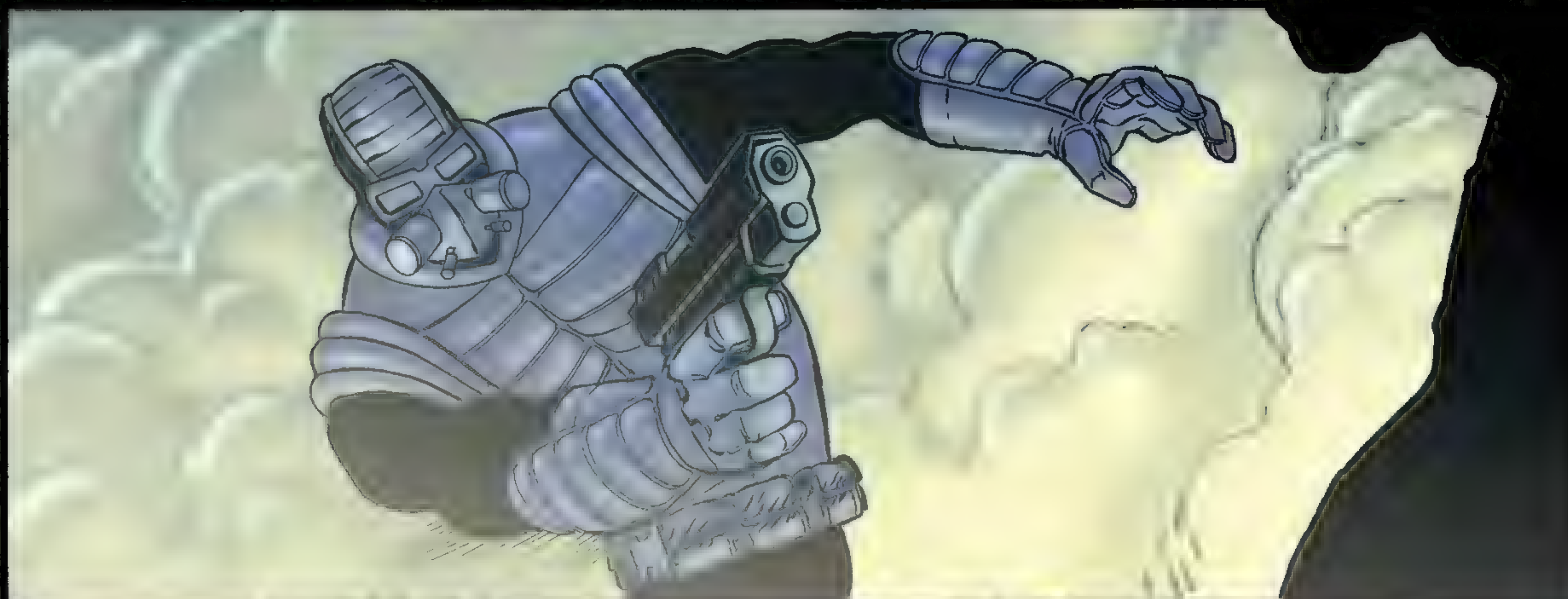


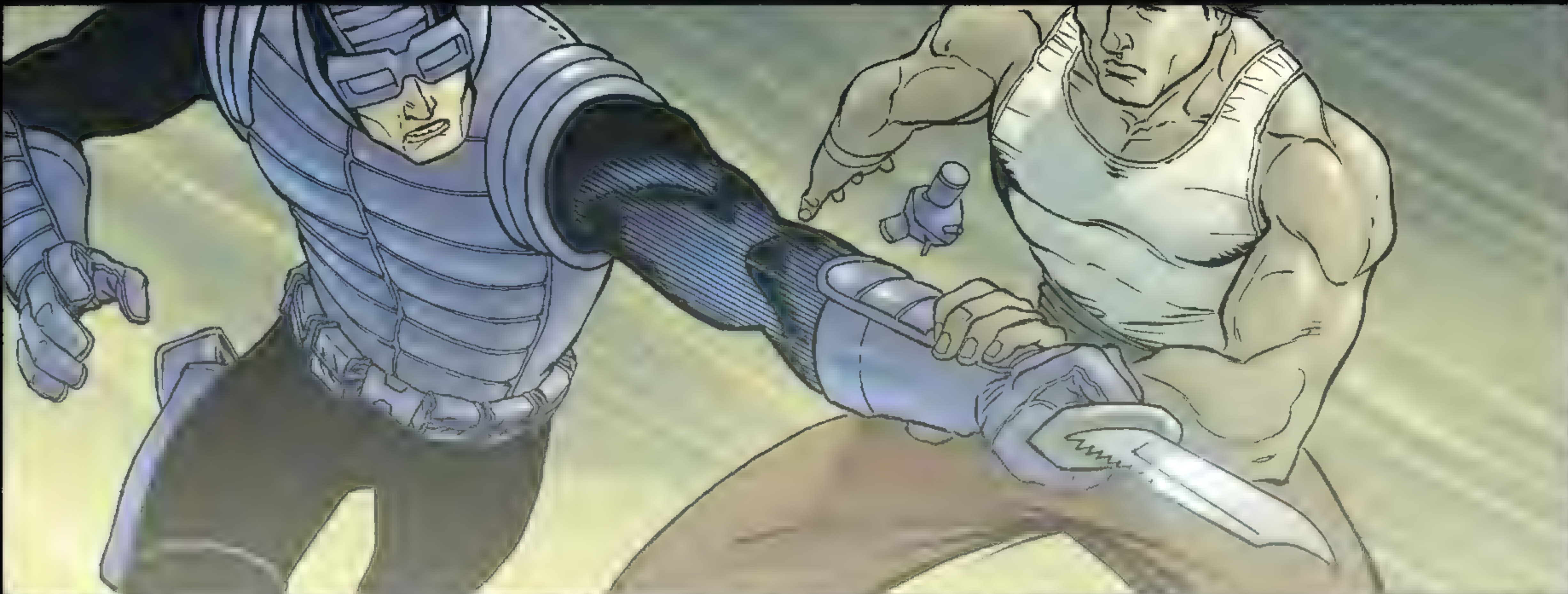
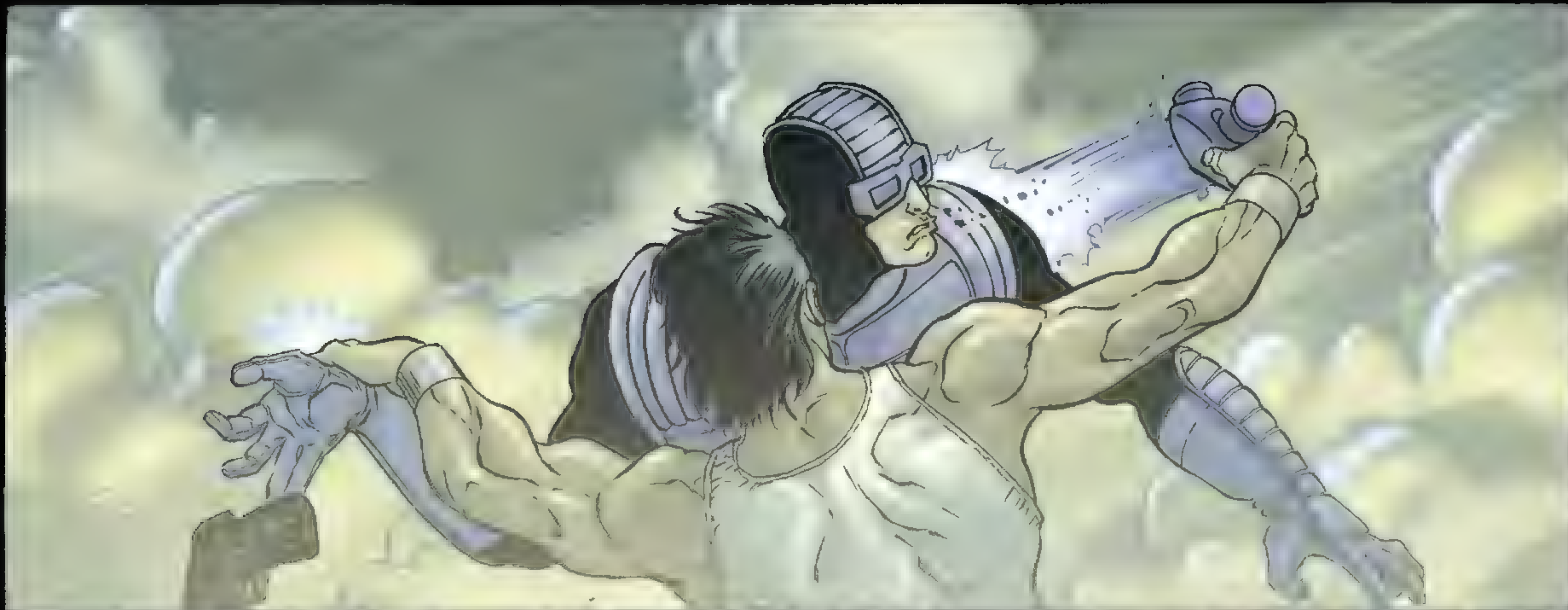
"DURING PALADIN'S TRAITOROUS
ATTACK, HIS FOCUS WAS
ENTIRELY ON THE APPREHENSION
OF CAPTAIN AMERICA."

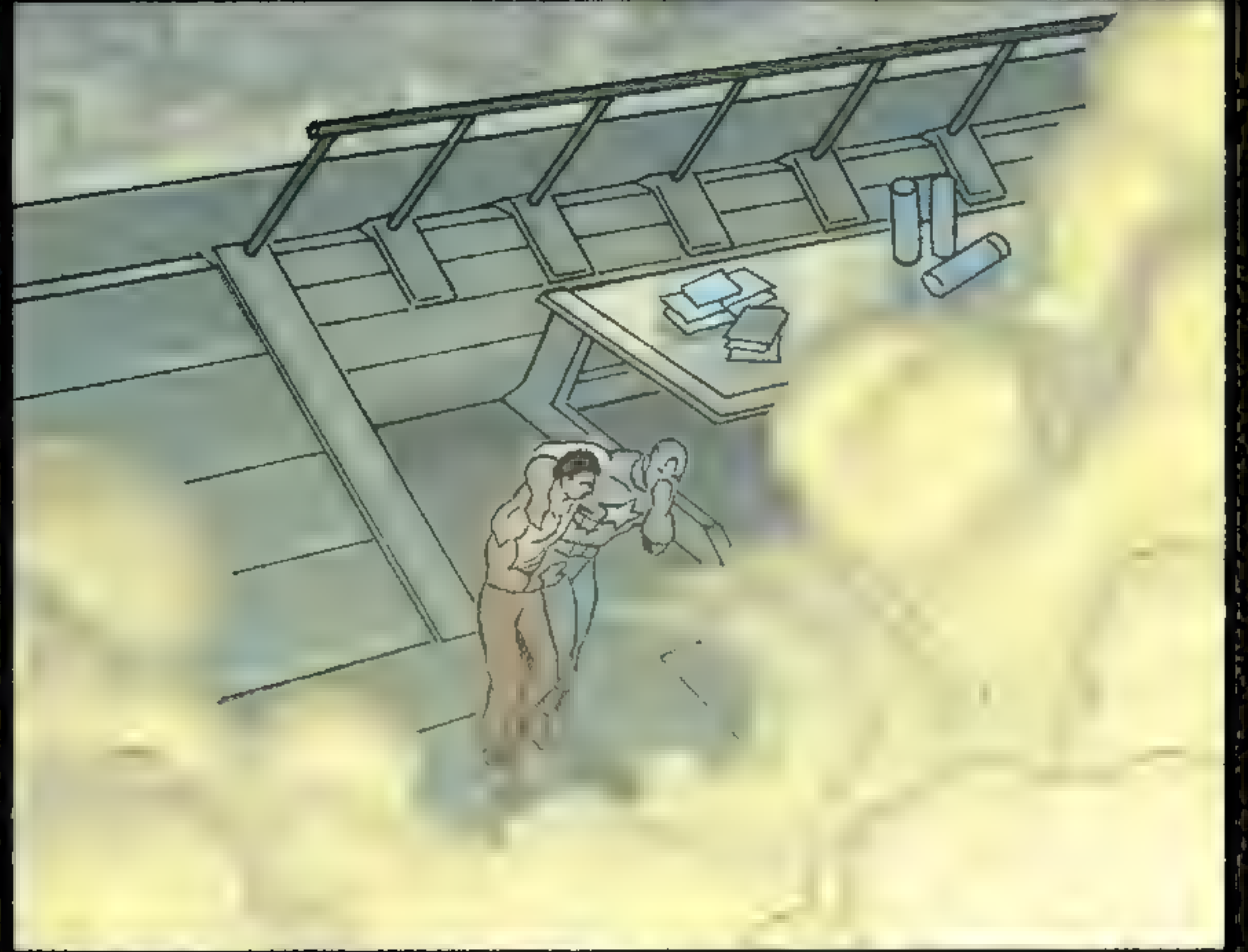
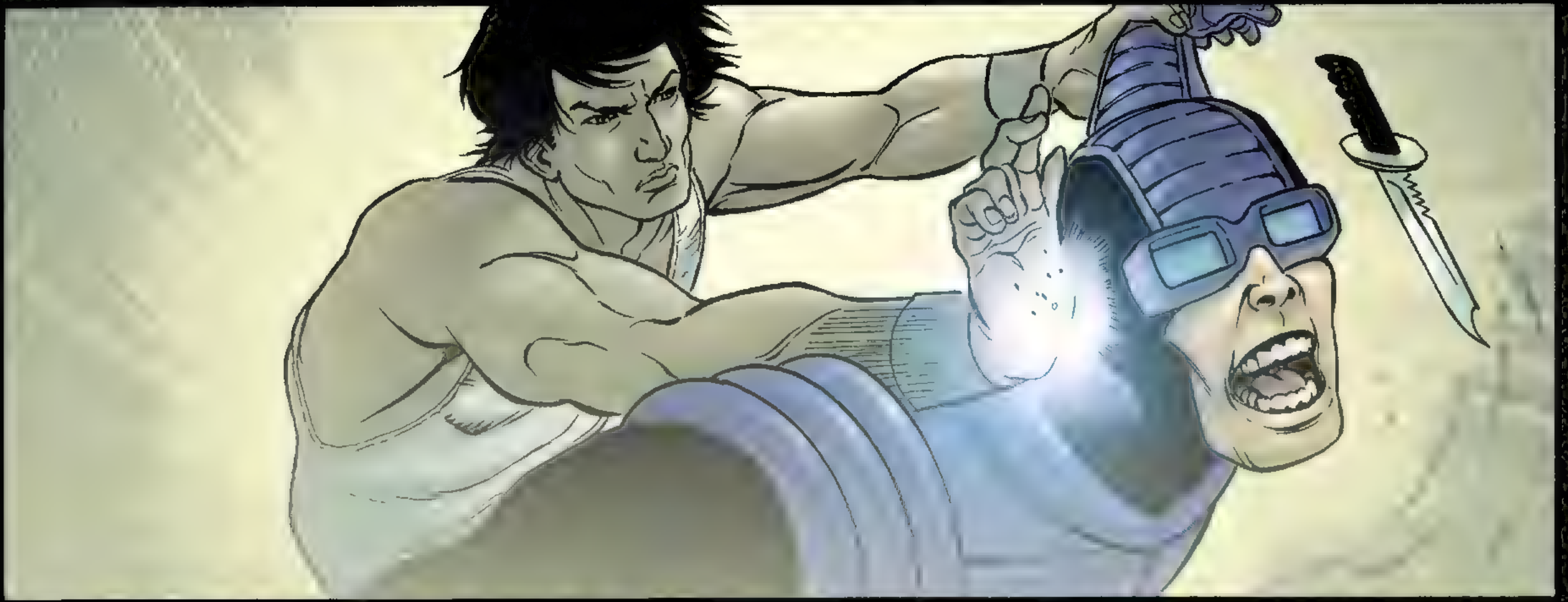
THIS IS
PALADIN.
I'VE SECURED
CAPTAIN
AMERICA.

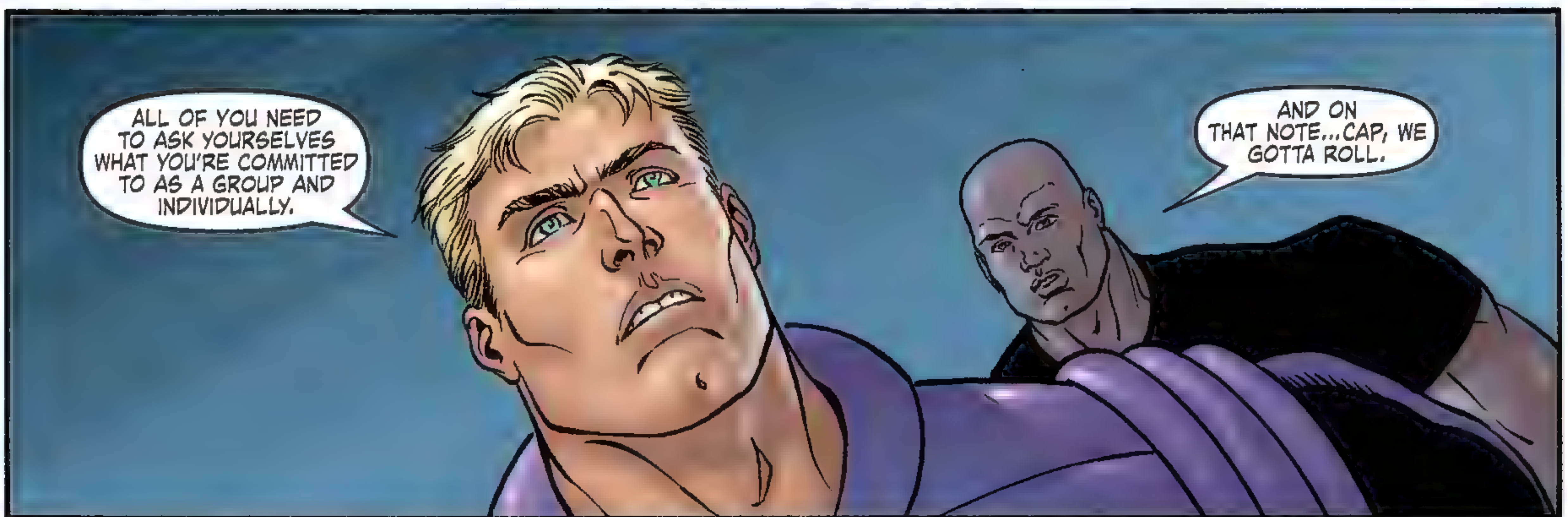
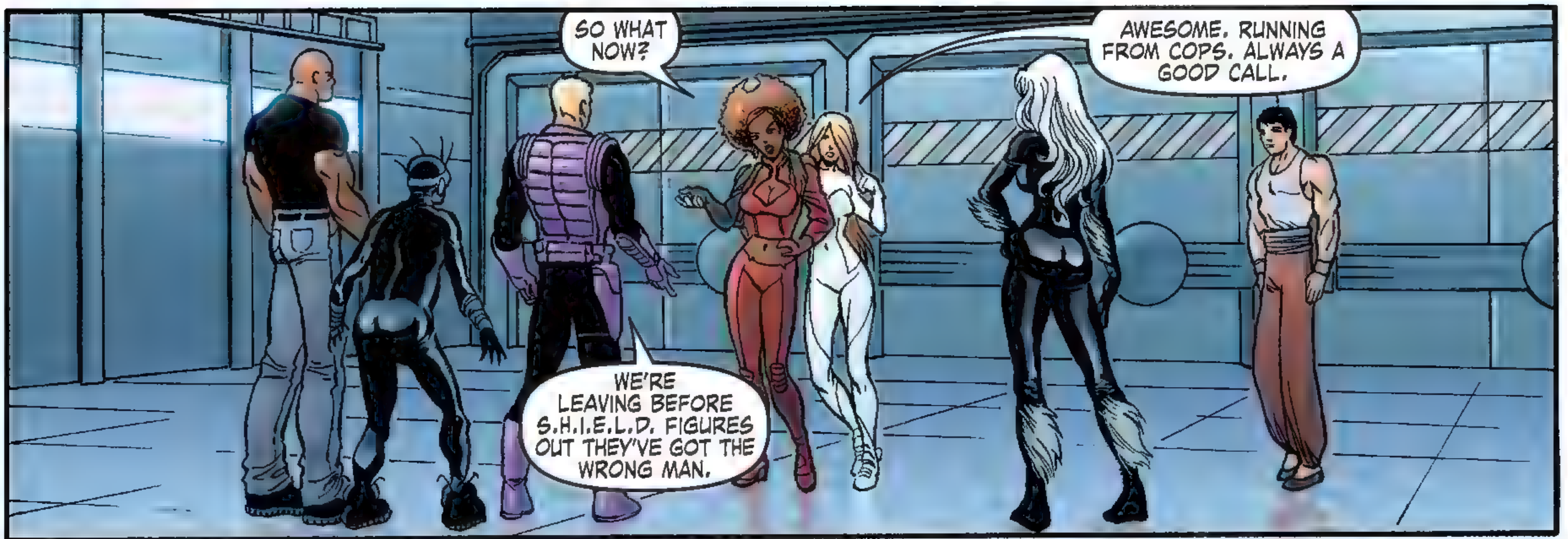


"GIVEN ONLY A FEW
SECONDS TO EVADE
HIS AWARENESS, I
WAS ABLE TO LAUNCH
A SUFFICIENT
COUNTERATTACK."





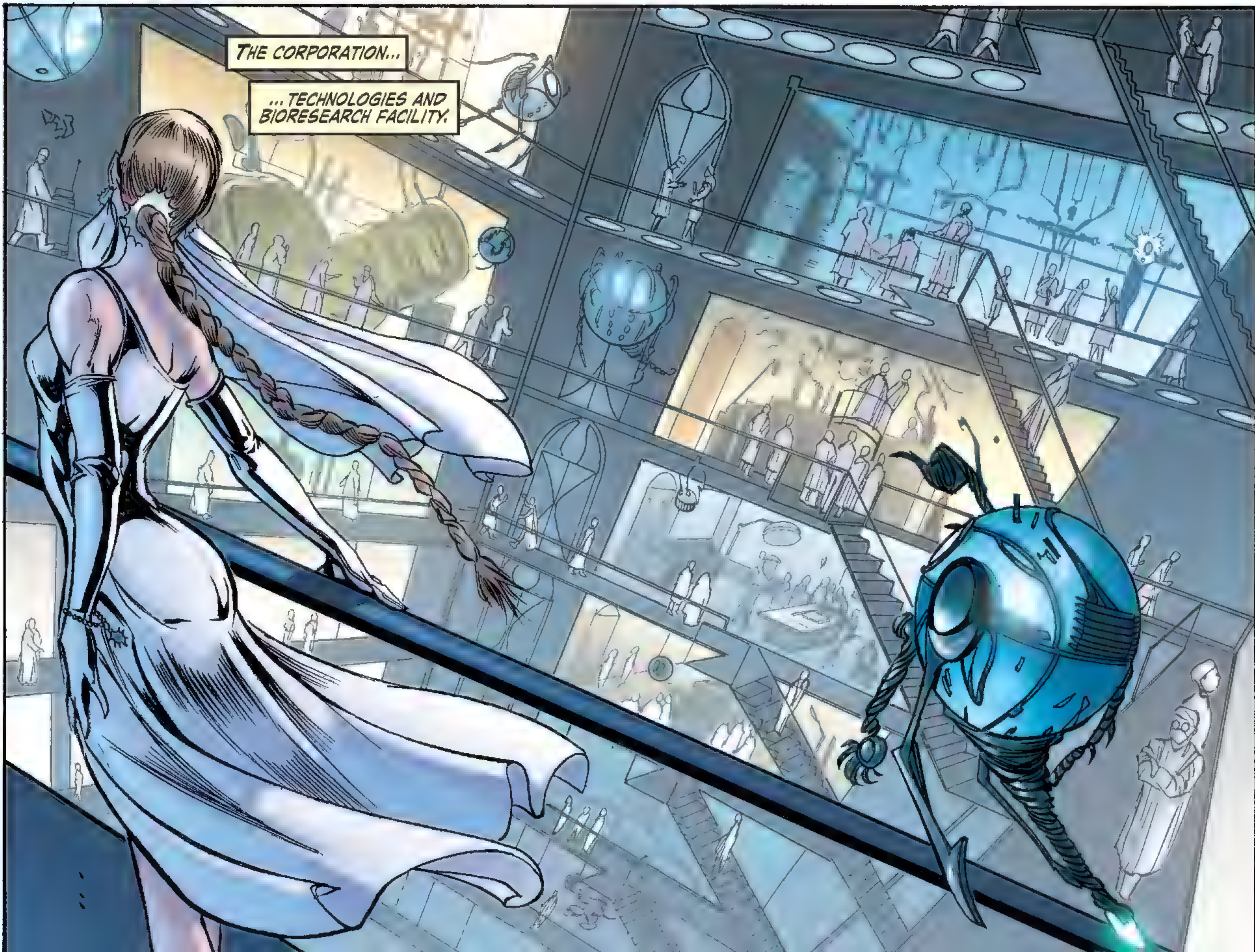
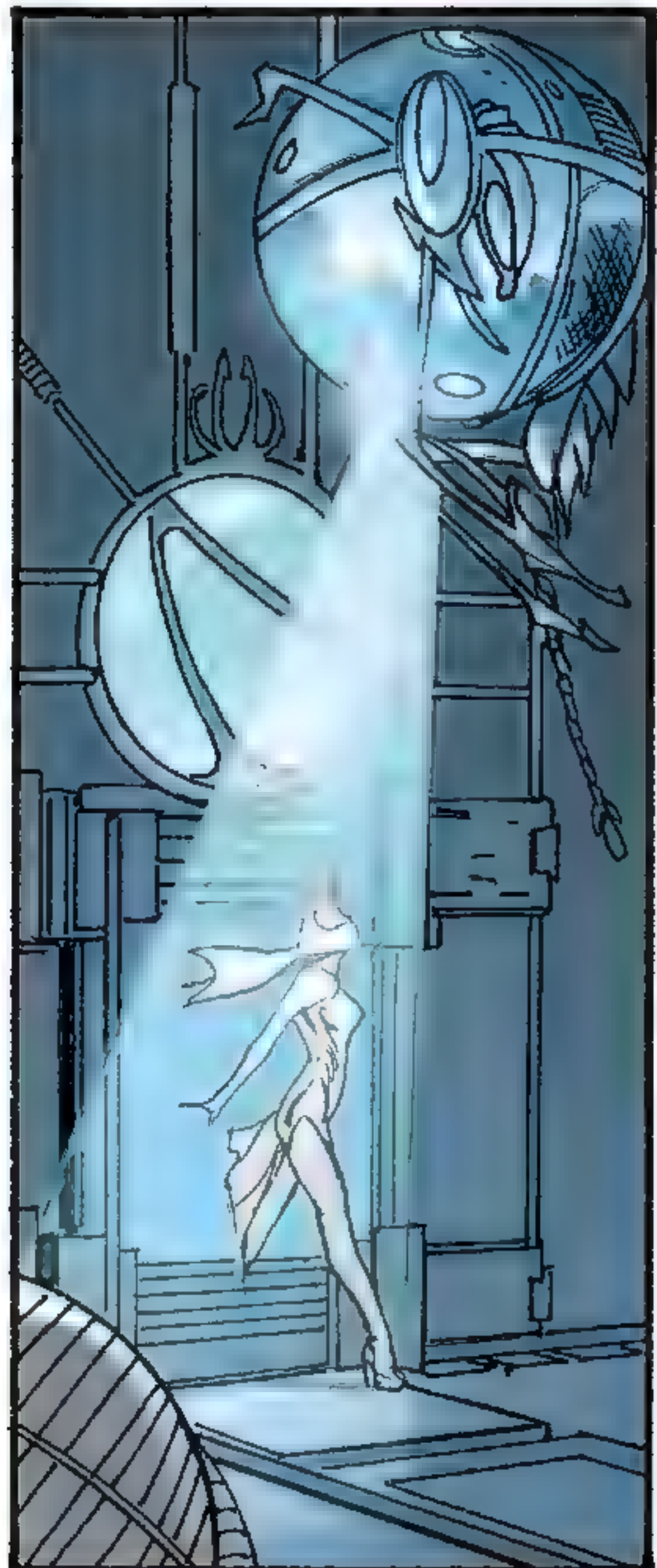
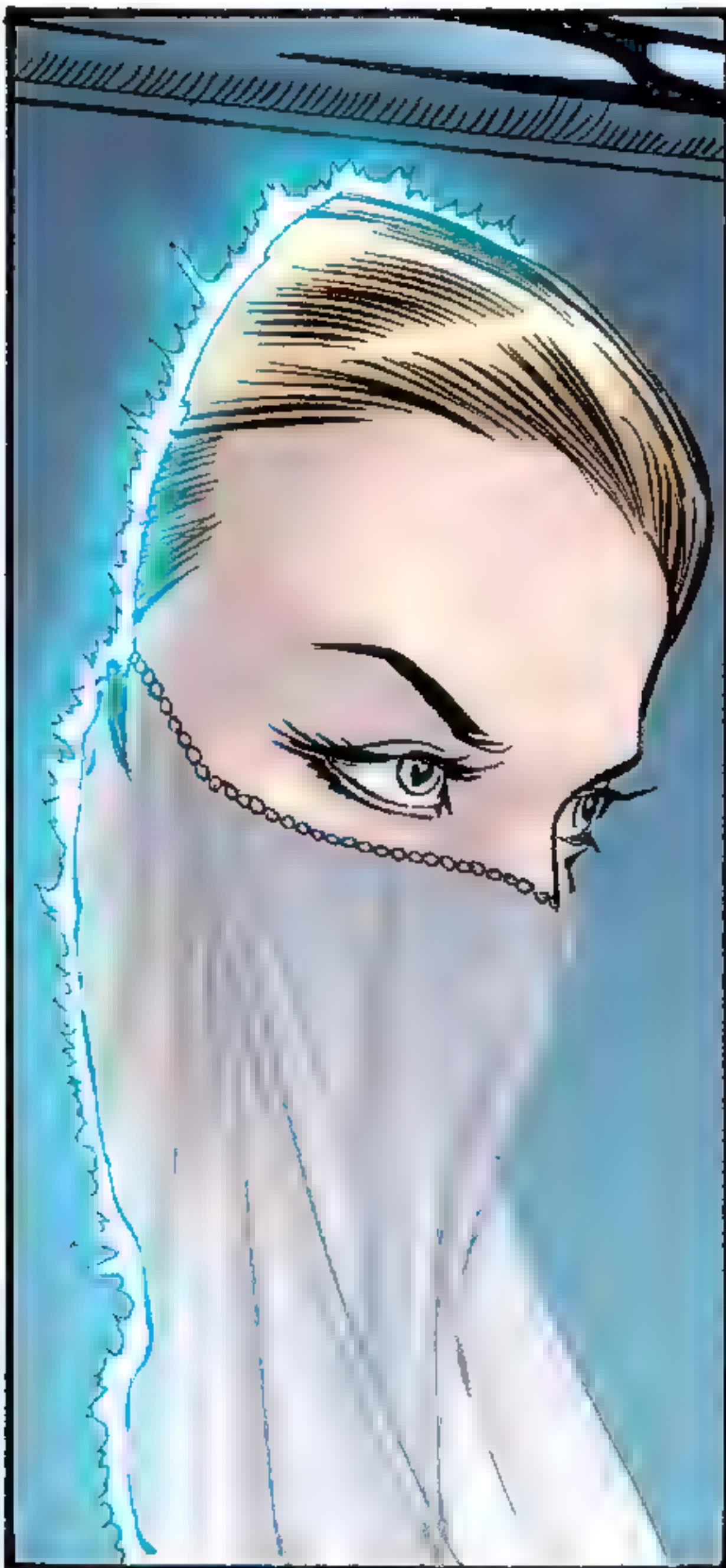
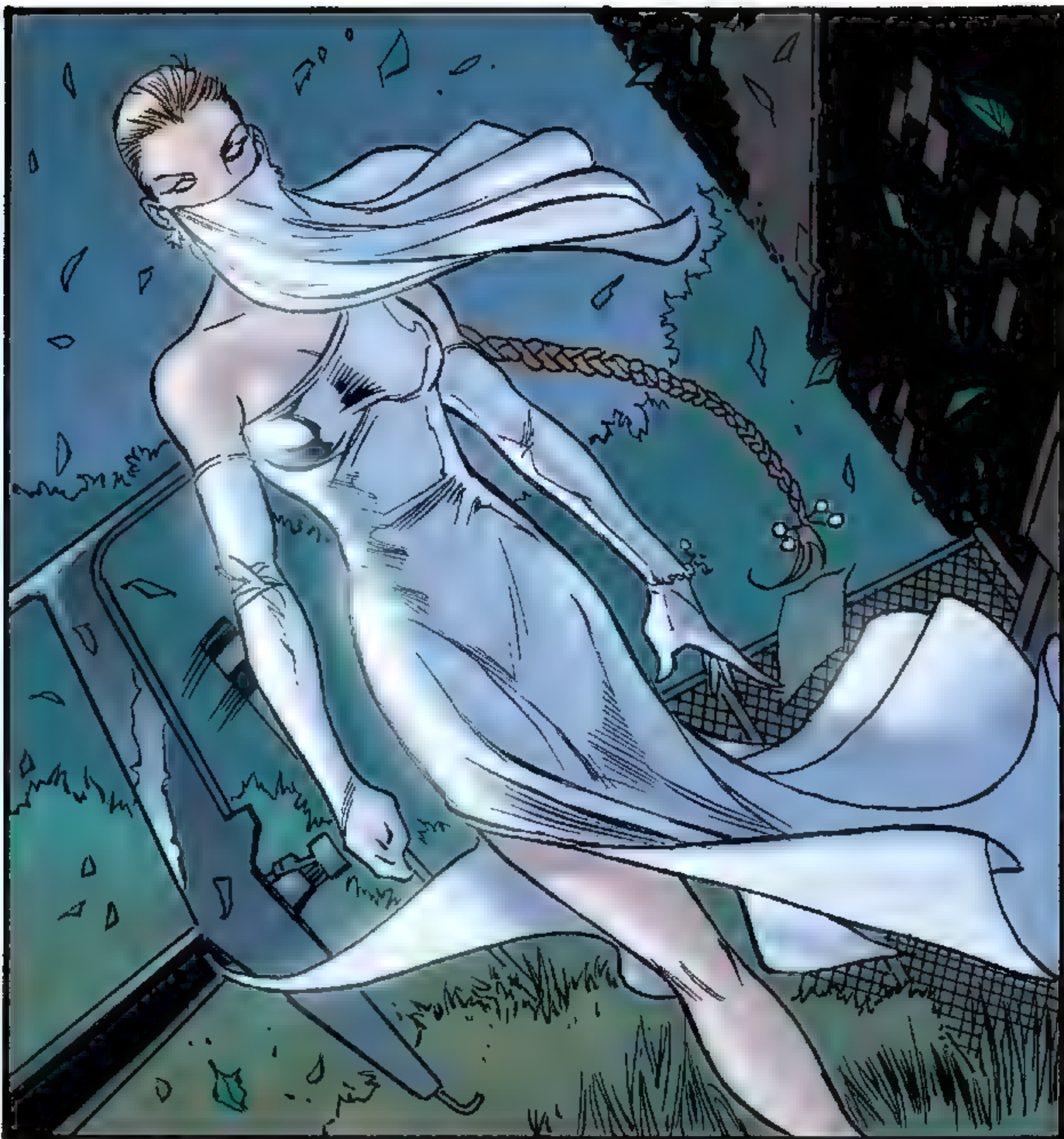






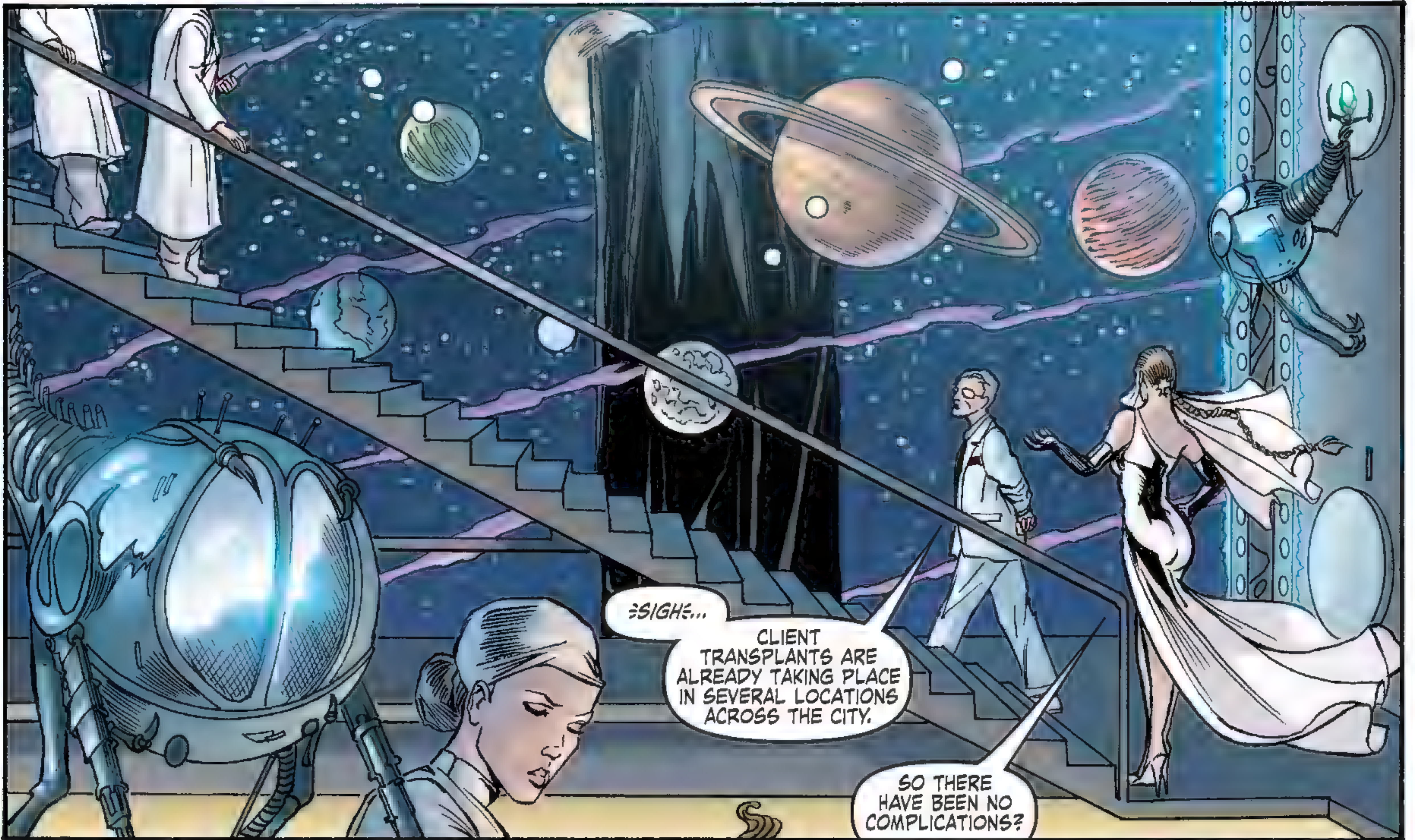
HART ISLAND.

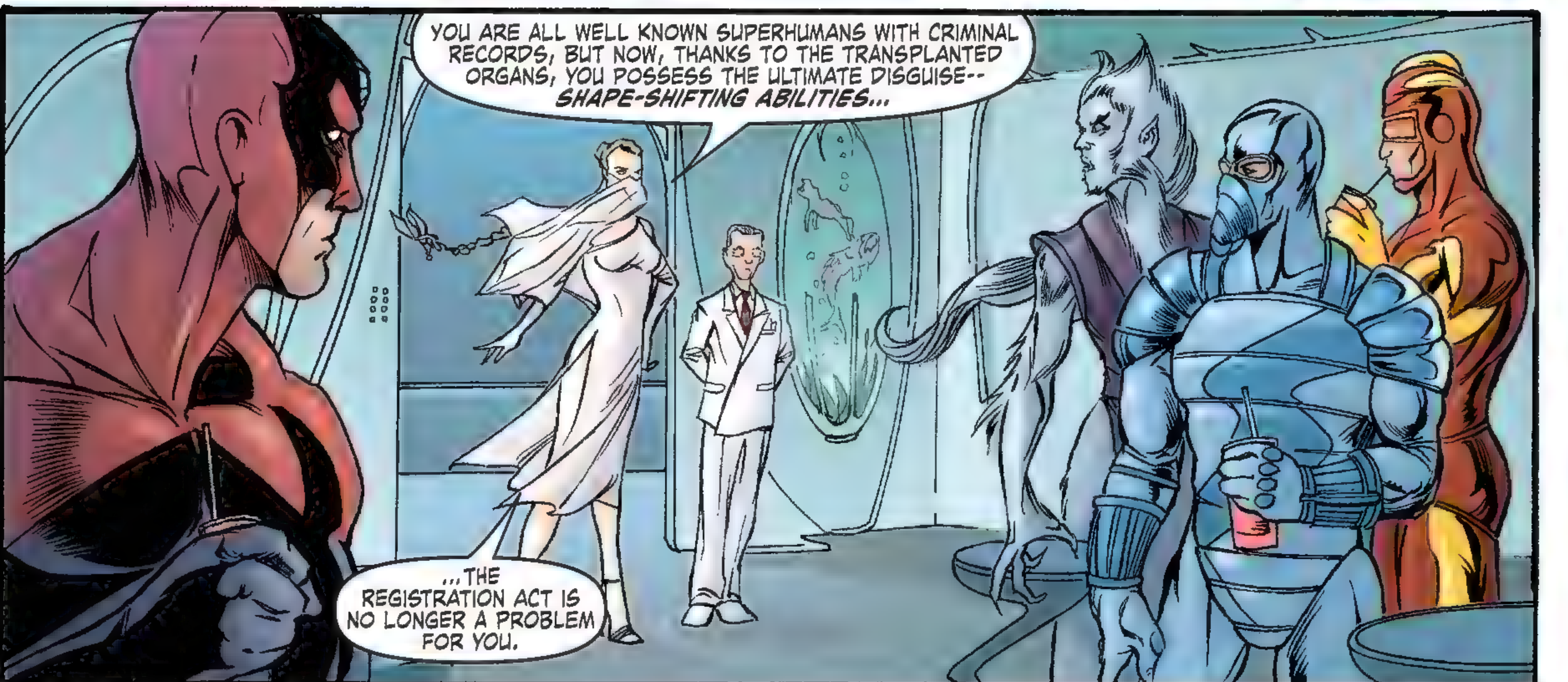
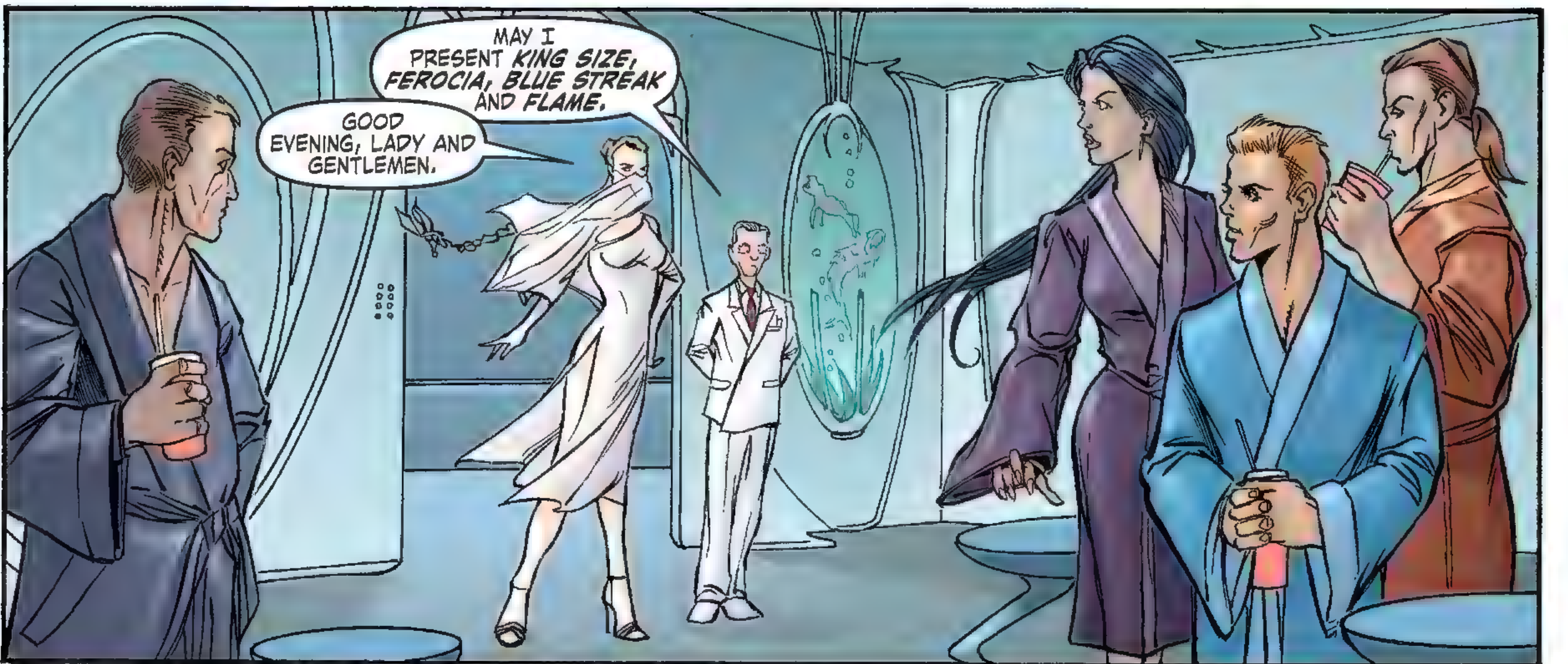
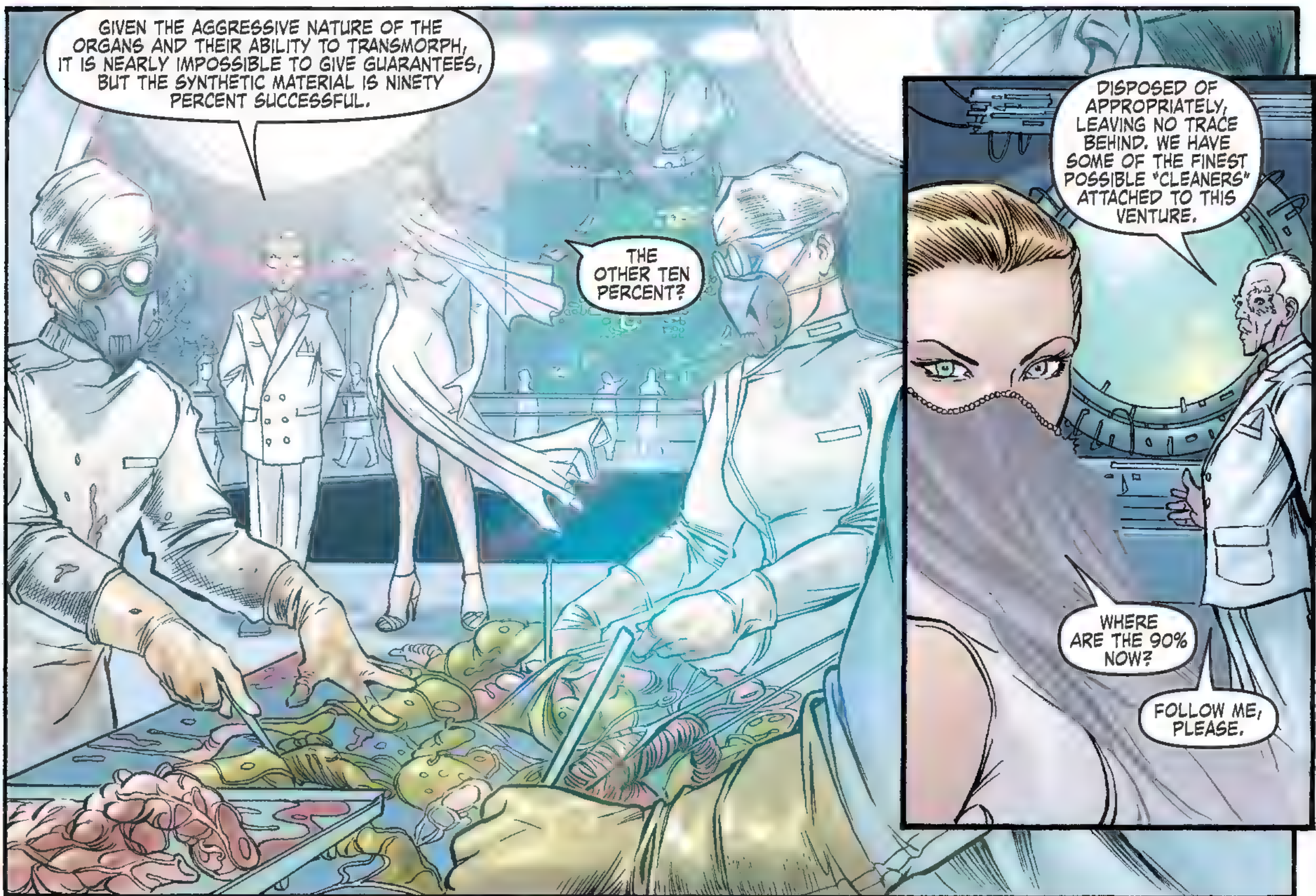
*OFF THE COAST OF
NEW YORK CITY.*

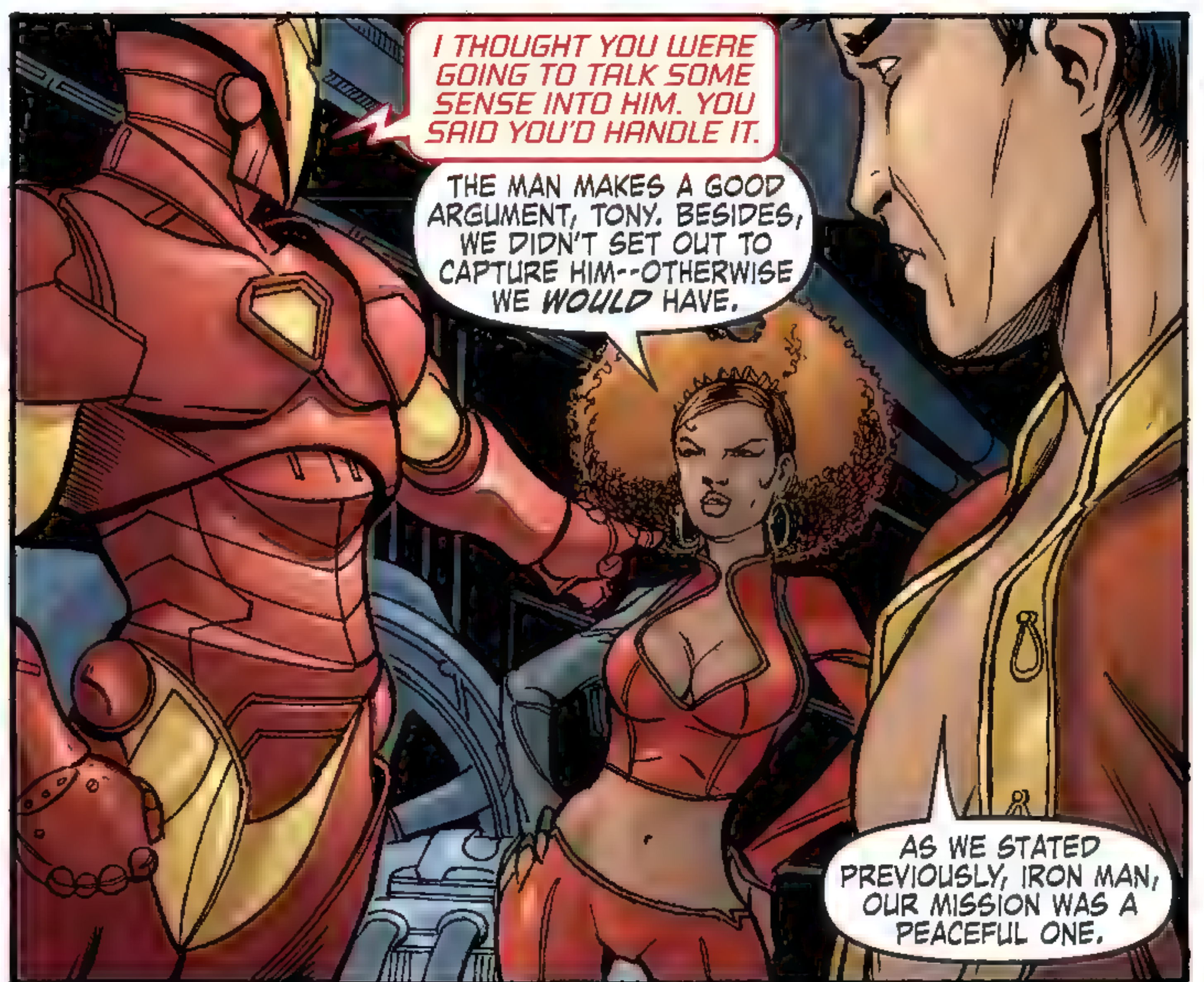
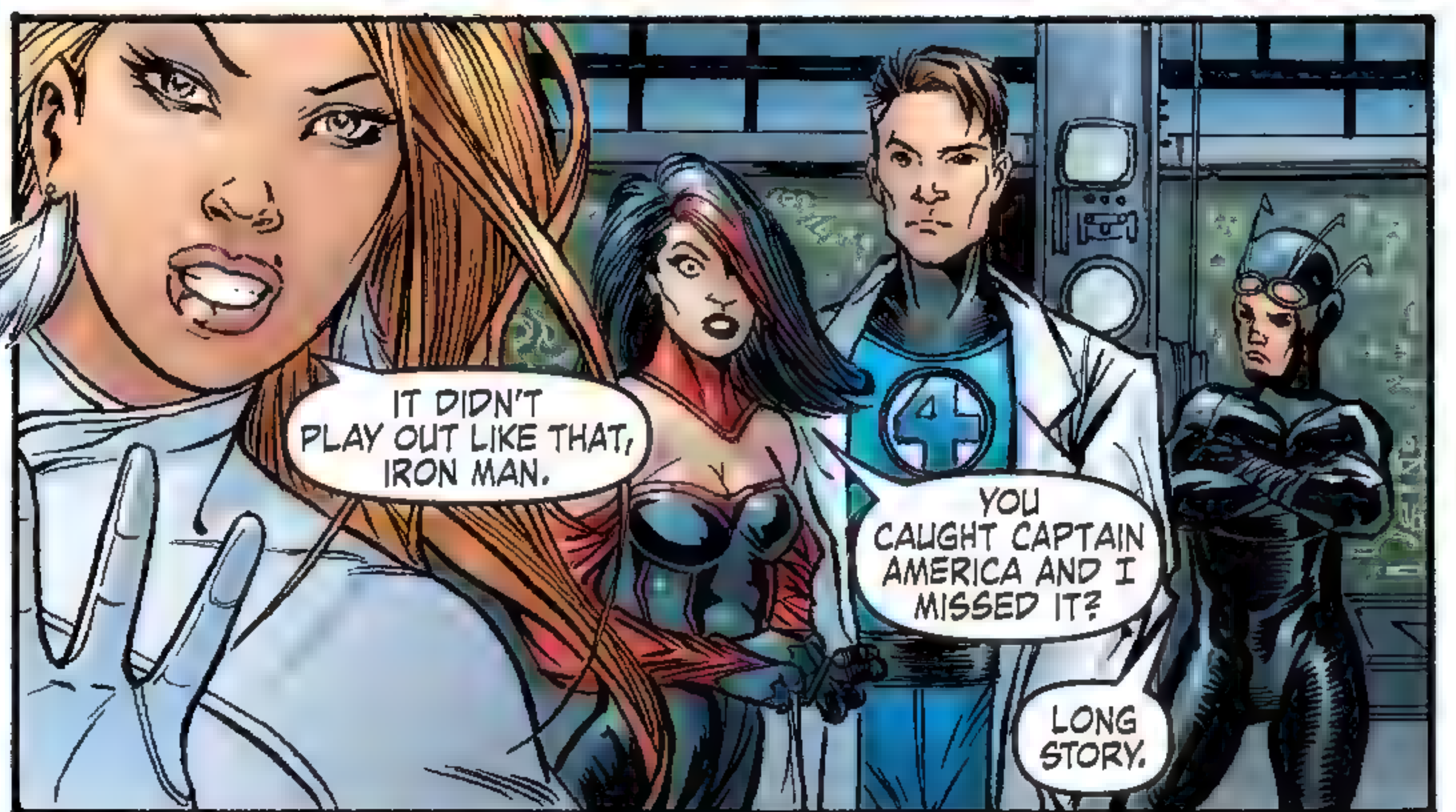
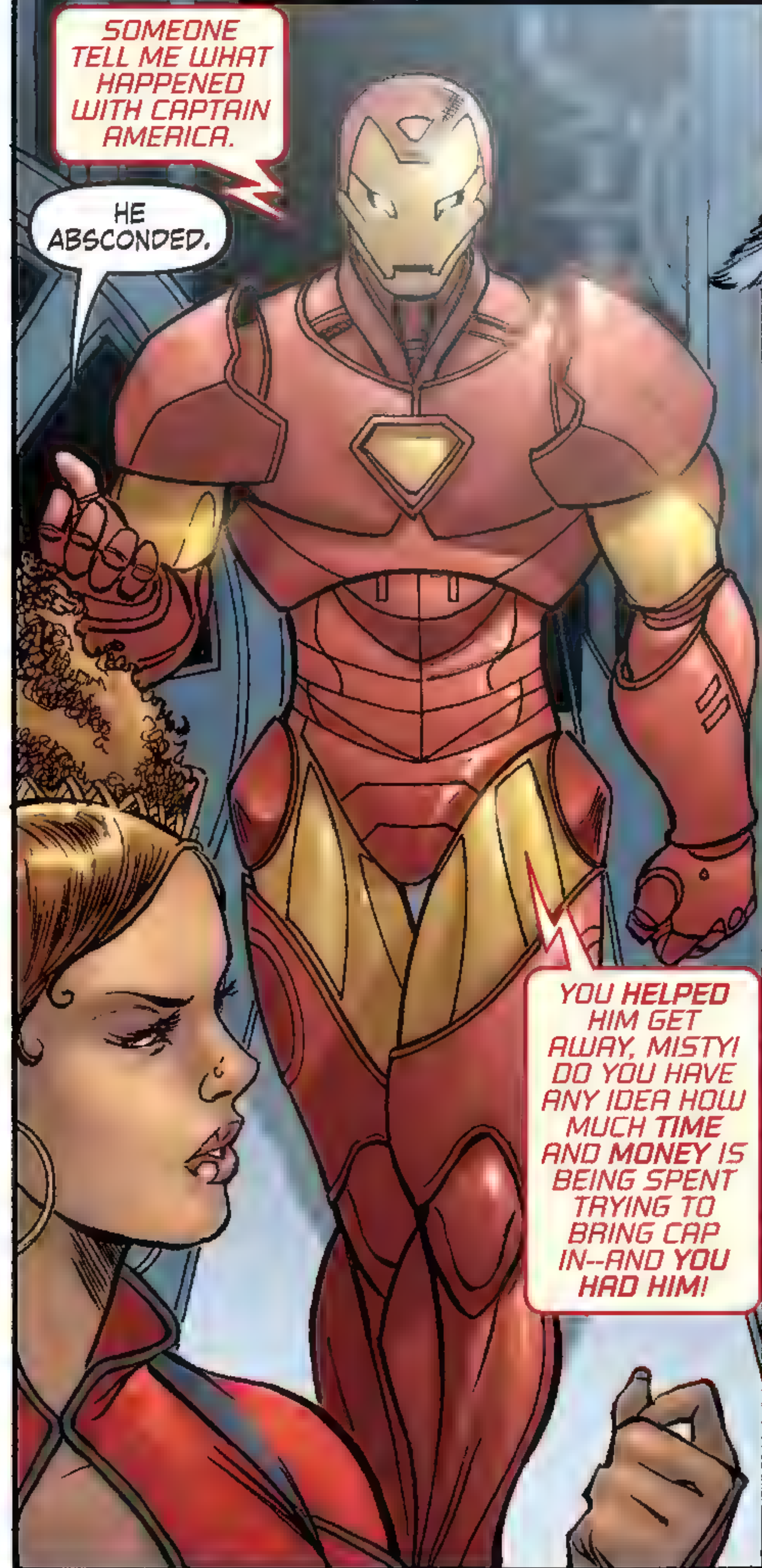
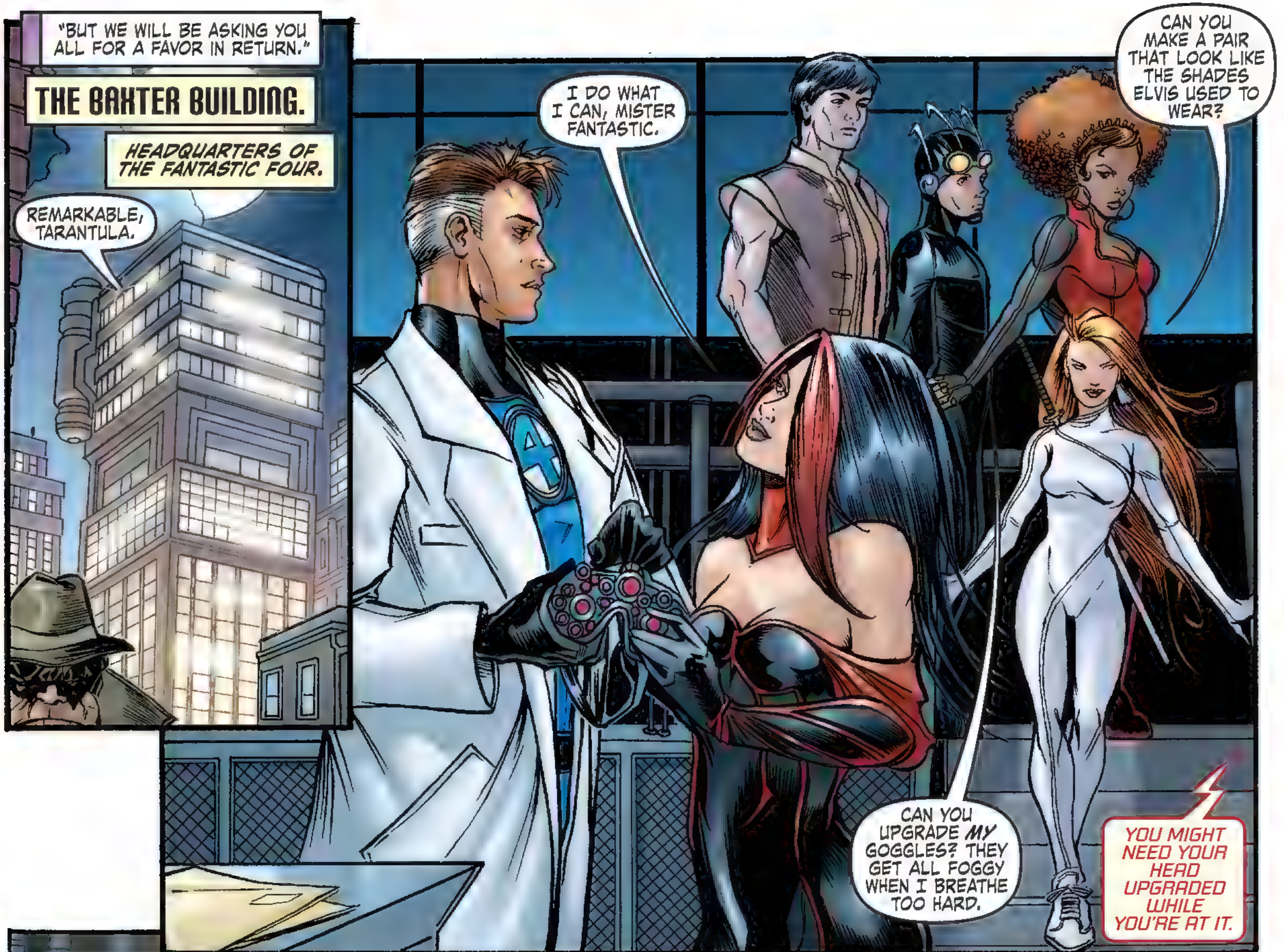


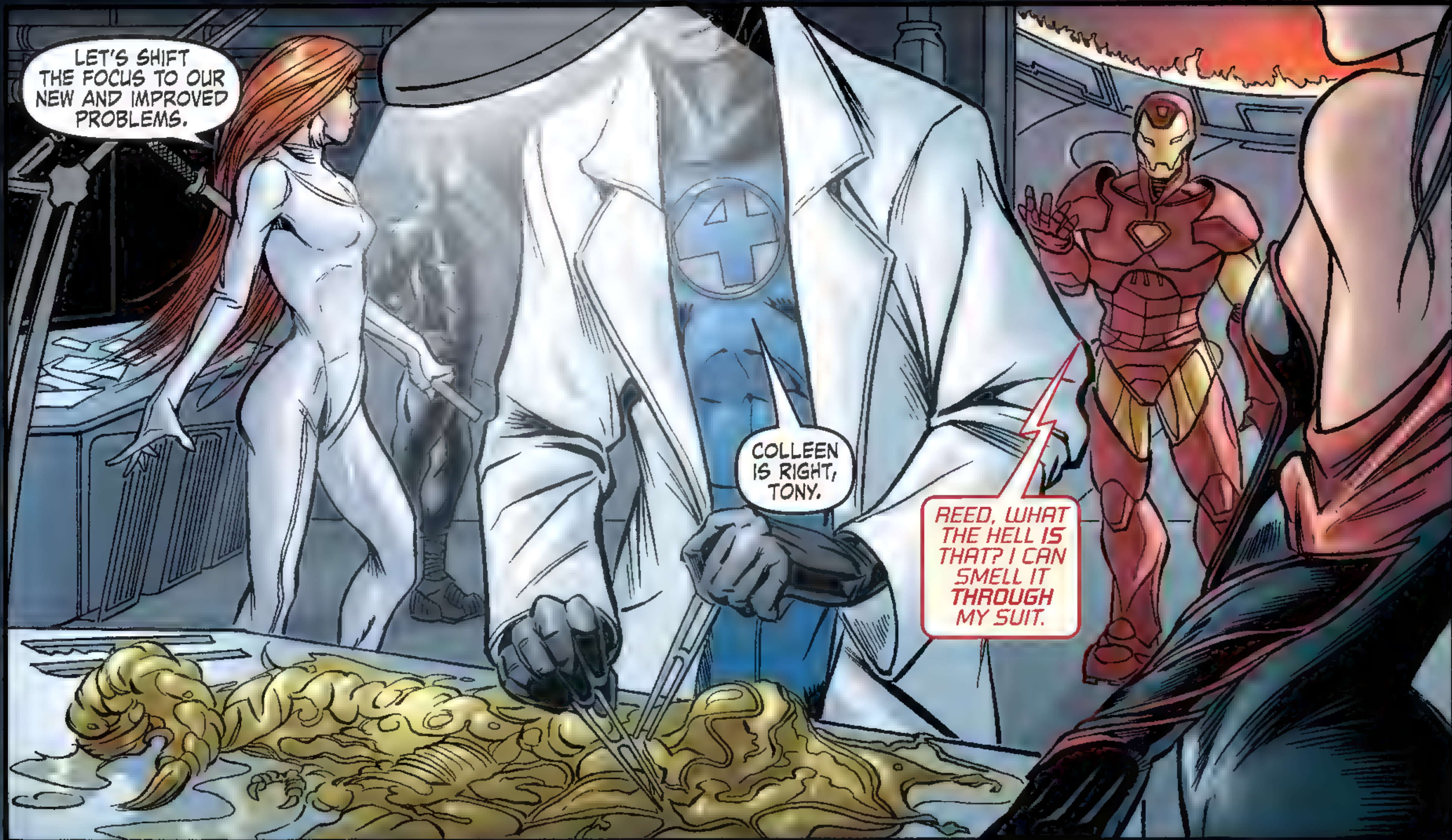
THE CORPORATION...

**...TECHNOLOGIES AND
BIORESEARCH FACILITY.**









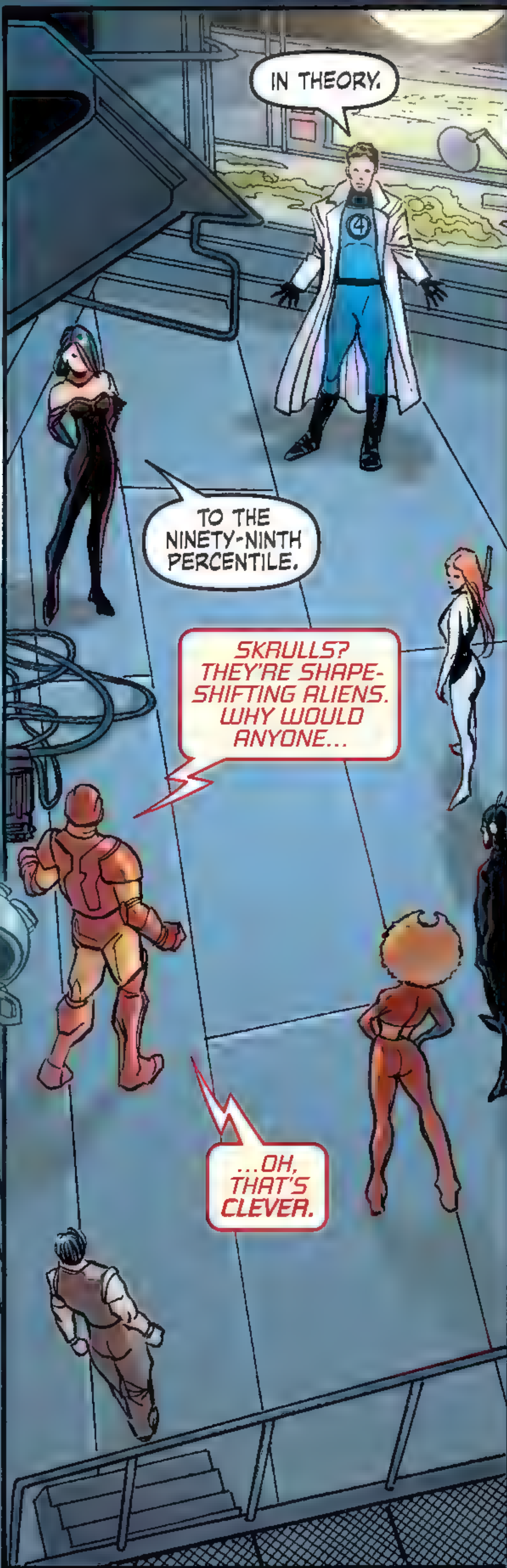
LET'S SHIFT THE FOCUS TO OUR NEW AND IMPROVED PROBLEMS.

COLLEEN IS RIGHT, TONY.

REED, WHAT THE HELL IS THAT? I CAN SMELL IT THROUGH MY SUIT.



DESIGNER SKRULL ORGANS. SOMEONE HAS SYNTHESIZED A COMPATIBLE TRANSPLANT THAT, WHEN YOU REPLACE A HUMAN OR SUPERHUMAN ORGAN WITH ONE OF THESE, YOU TAKE ON CERTAIN...ABILITIES.

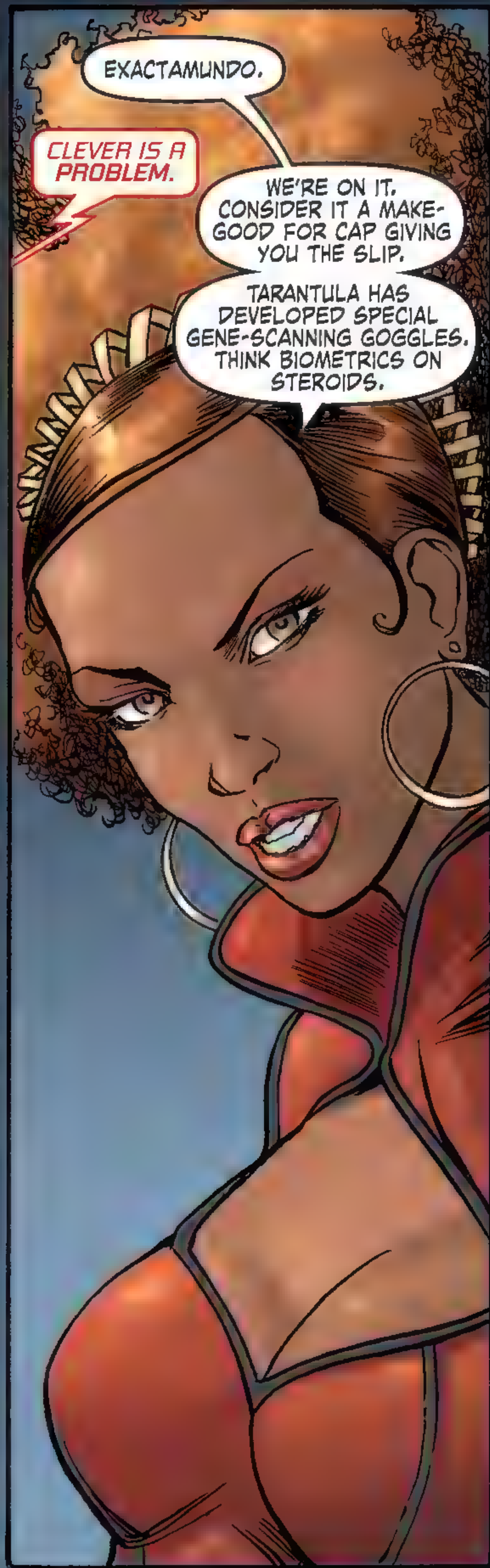


IN THEORY.

TO THE NINETY-NINTH PERCENTILE.

SKRULLS? THEY'RE SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIENS. WHY WOULD ANYONE...

...OH, THAT'S CLEVER.

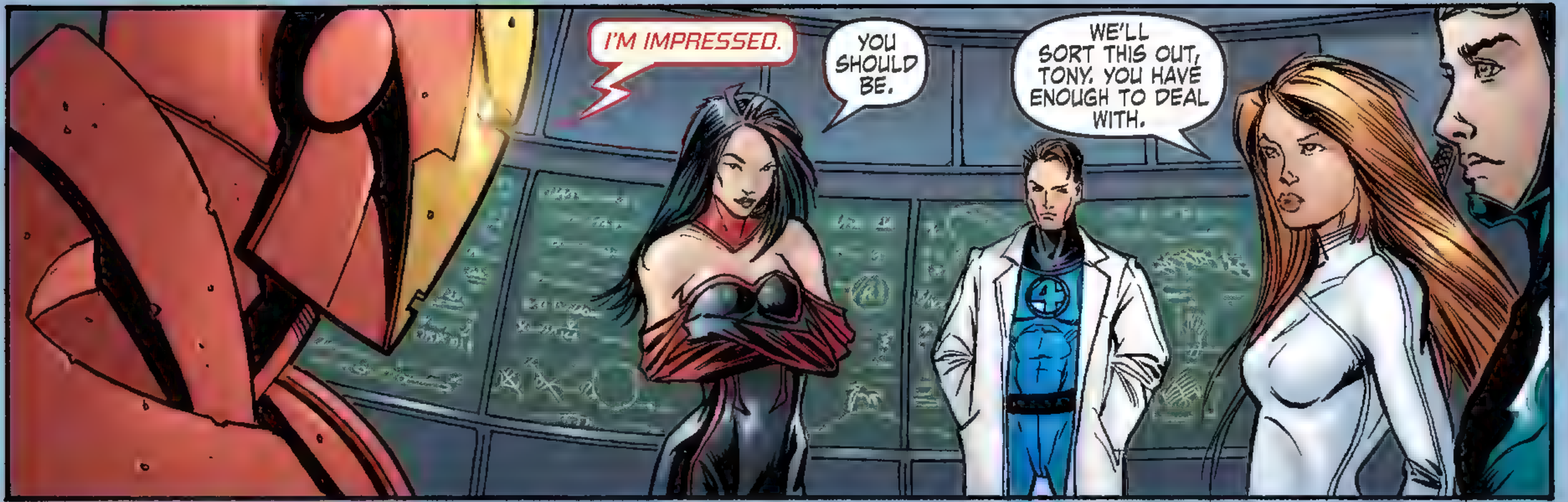


EXACTAMUNDO.

CLEVER IS A PROBLEM.

WE'RE ON IT. CONSIDER IT A MAKE-GOOD FOR CAP GIVING YOU THE SLIP.

TARANTULA HAS DEVELOPED SPECIAL GENE-SCANNING GOGGLES. THINK BIOMETRICS ON STEROIDS.



I'M IMPRESSED.

YOU SHOULD BE.

WE'LL SORT THIS OUT, TONY. YOU HAVE ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH.



OH, AND ABOUT PALADIN...

I'D LIKE YOU TO POP A V-CHIP IN HIS HEAD AND HAND HIM OVER TO US.

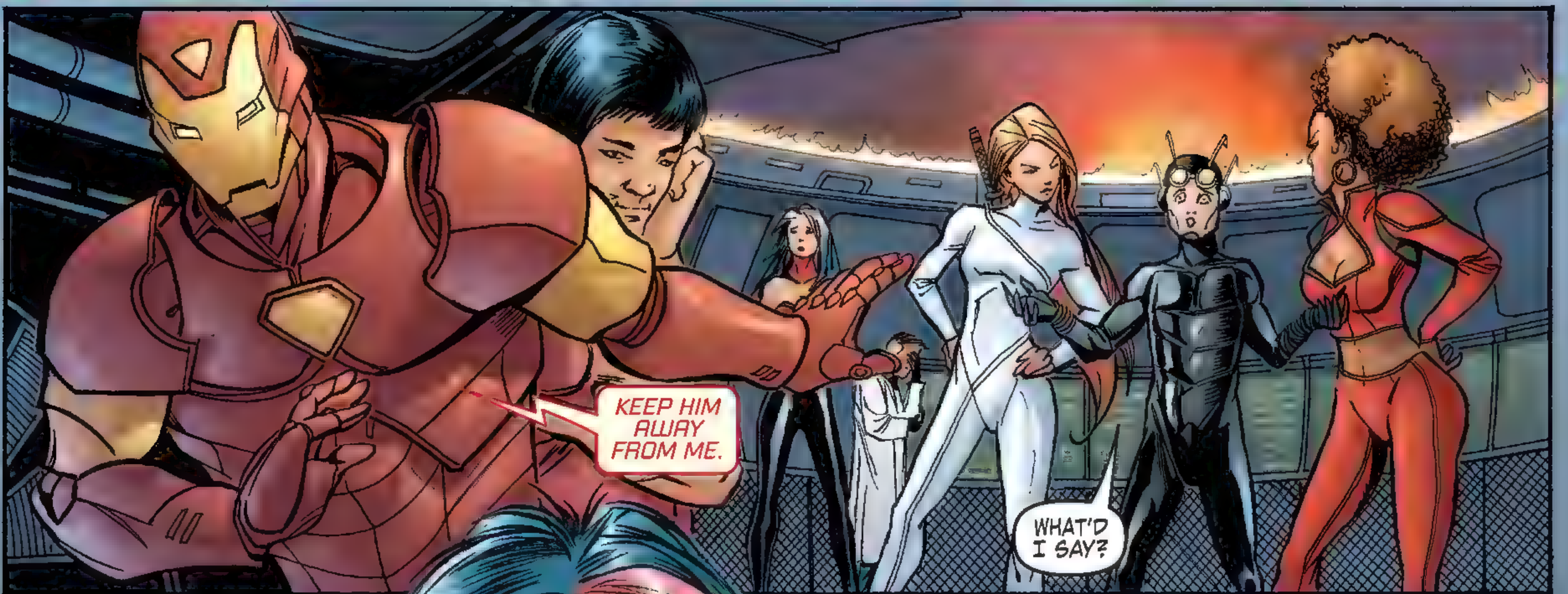
WHY?



I TOLD MOMMA CHEN I'D HIRE HIM TO LICK THE TOILETS CLEAN OVER AT THE GOLDEN DRAGON.

YOU'VE GOT A REAL MEAN STREAK IN YOU, KNIGHT. BUT YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT.

COME ON, IRON MAN. HAVE A HEART.



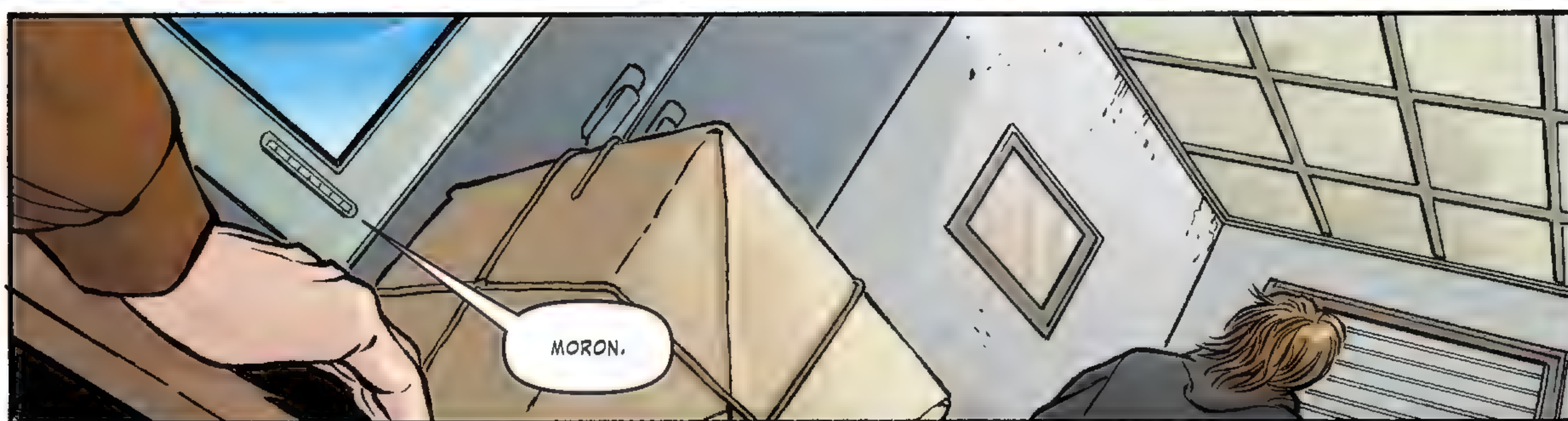
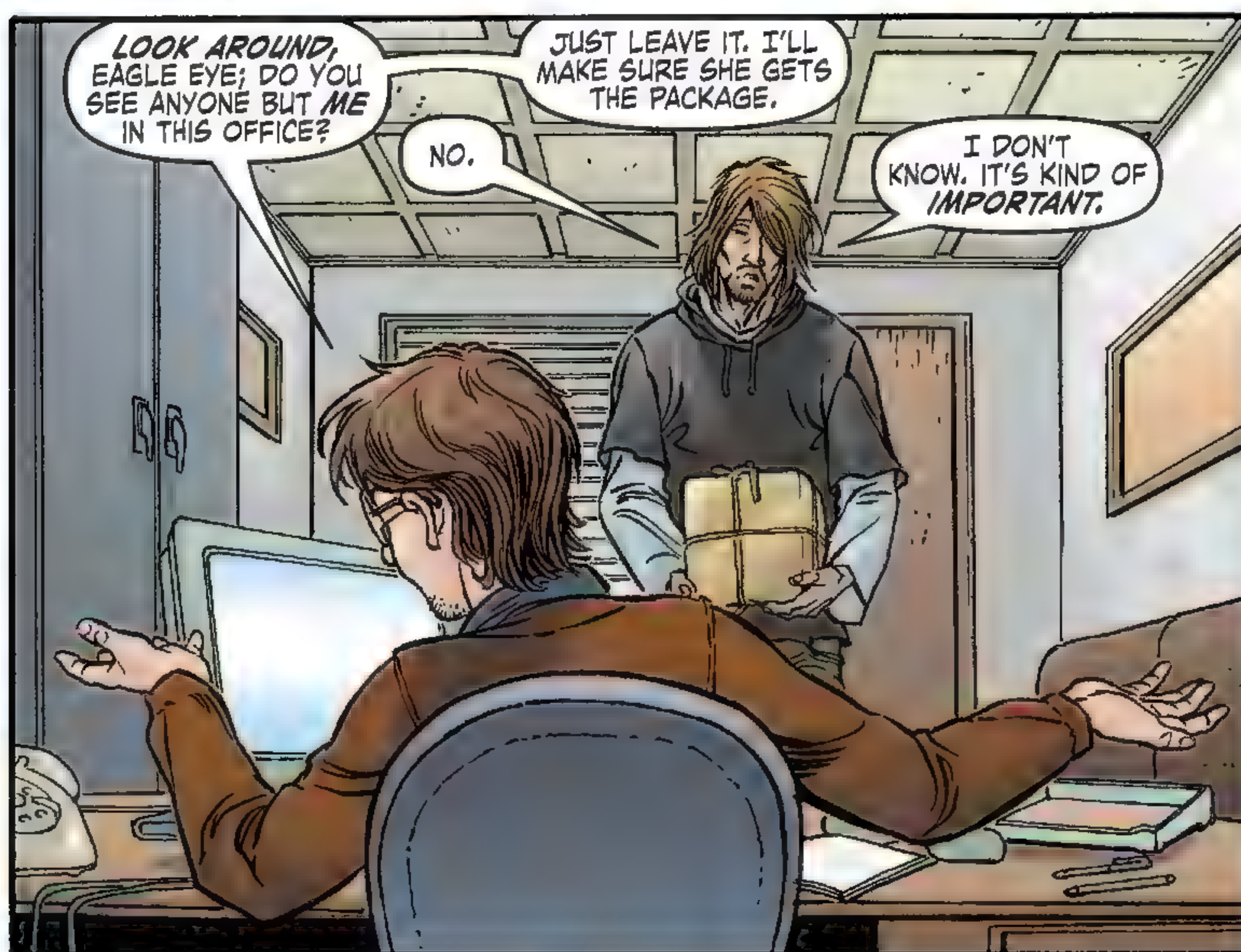
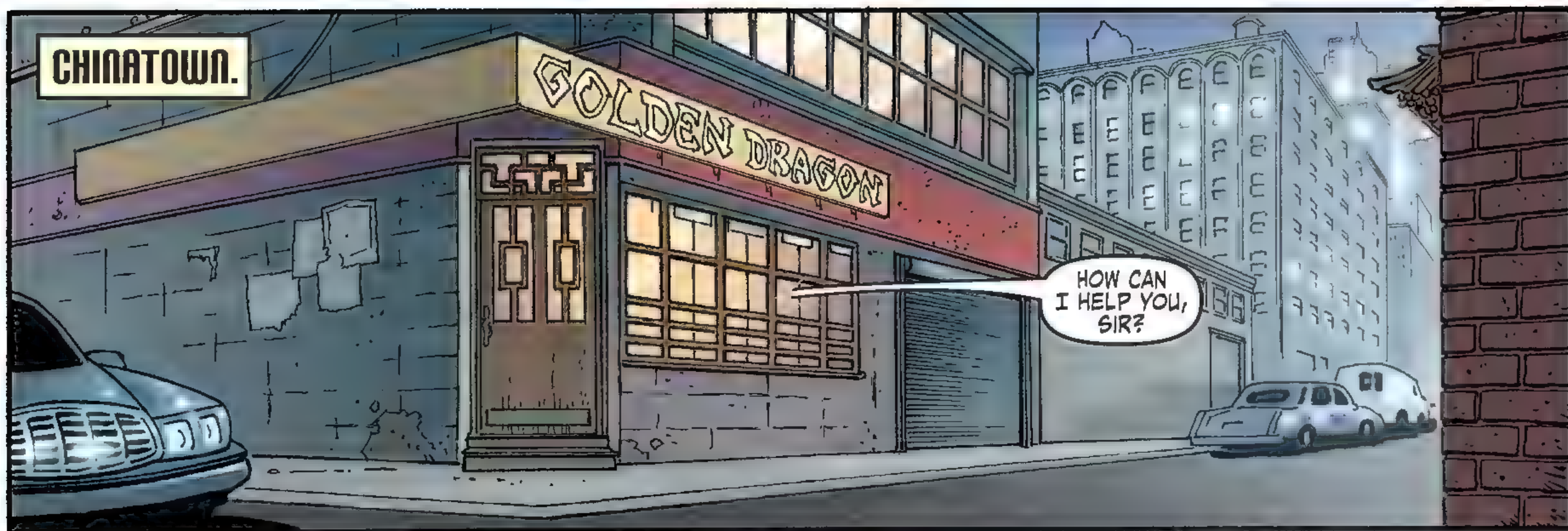
KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME.

WHAT'D I SAY?



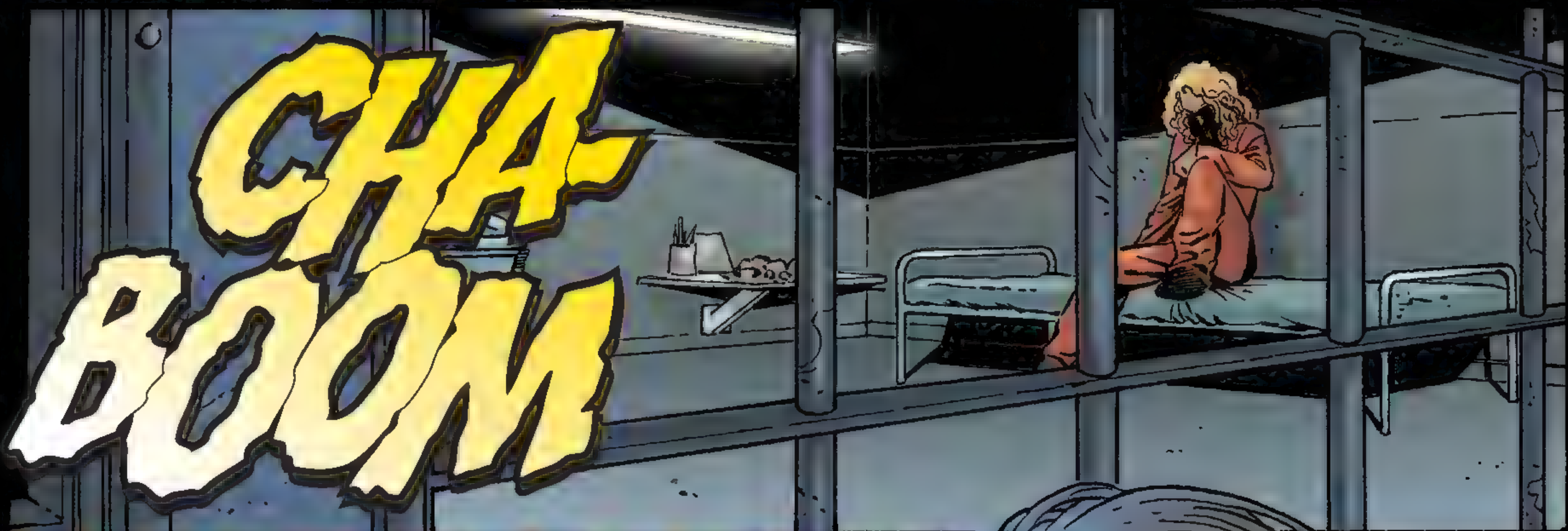
I'VE BEEN COOPED UP IN THIS LAB FOR HOURS WITH A SUPER-INTELLIGENT NON-CONVERSATIONALIST HUMAN RUBBER BAND.

CAN WE GO BEAT ON SOMEONE BIG, CRAZY AND TOO DUMB TO REGISTER?





SING SING PRISON,
OSSINING, NEW YORK.



WOOOOOT! WOOOOOT!
WOOOOOT! WOOOOOT!
WOOOOOT! WOOOOOT!
WOOOOOT! WOOOOOT!
WOOOOOT! WOOOOOT!
WOOOOOT! WOOOOOT!
WOOOOOT! WOOOOOT!
WOOOOOT! WOOOOOT!
WOOOOOT! WOOOOOT!

AHHH...
THE DELICIOUS
SOUND OF
FREEDOM.





RUN
AWAY NOW,
CHILDREN.

KING SIZE,
DO YOUR
THING.

MY
PLEASURE,
FEROCIA!

FLAME,
YOU'RE UP!

I LOVE
THE SMELL OF
ROAST PORK!

WHAT A
MAGNIFICENT SHOW!
I CAN SEE YOU
WERE MONEY WELL
SPENT.





KING SIZE,
GET ME *OUT*
OF HERE.



WHAT'S OUR *FIRST*
ORDER OF BUSINESS,
RICADONNA?

AS A REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE CRIMINAL COMMUNITY,
I HAVE A *REPUTATION* TO
PROTECT. SAID REPUTATION WAS
TARNISHED RECENTLY.

THEREFORE,
IT IS MY DUTY TO
KILL THE SKANKS
RESPONSIBLE.



YOU
SHOULD KNOW THAT
SOME THINGS HAVE
CHANGED SINCE YOU
WENT INSIDE.

BABY,
WE HAVE
CABLE...



...I KNOW
EVERYTHING
THAT'S HAPPENING
AND IT EXCITES ME
ENDLESSLY.

THE BIG BOYS
ARE TEARING EACH
OTHER APART AND LEAVING
THE STREETS RIPE FOR
THE PICKING.

TOGETHER,
WE'LL *REBUILD*
MY EMPIRE...

...AFTER I
WIPE *MISTY KNIGHT*
AND *COLLEEN WING*
OFF THE *FACE* OF
THE EARTH.

TO BE CONTINUED

PALMIOTTI
GRAY
TUCCI
PORTELA
PALMER
PALLOT

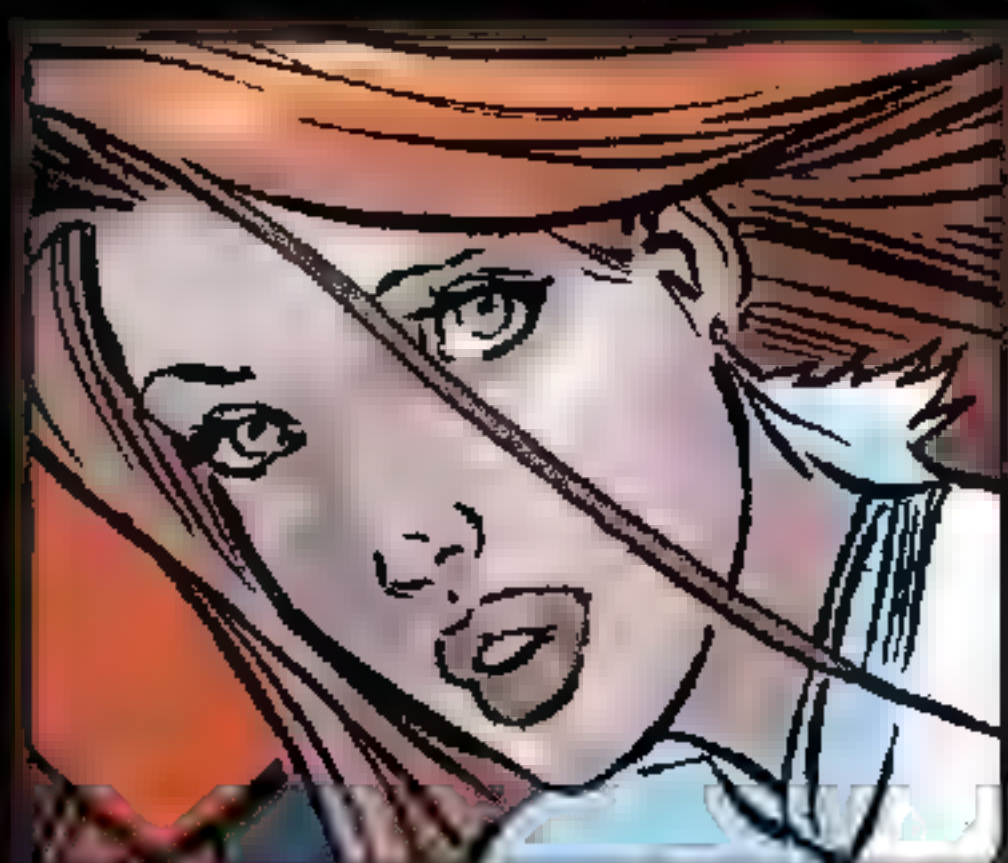
HEROES FOR HIRE™



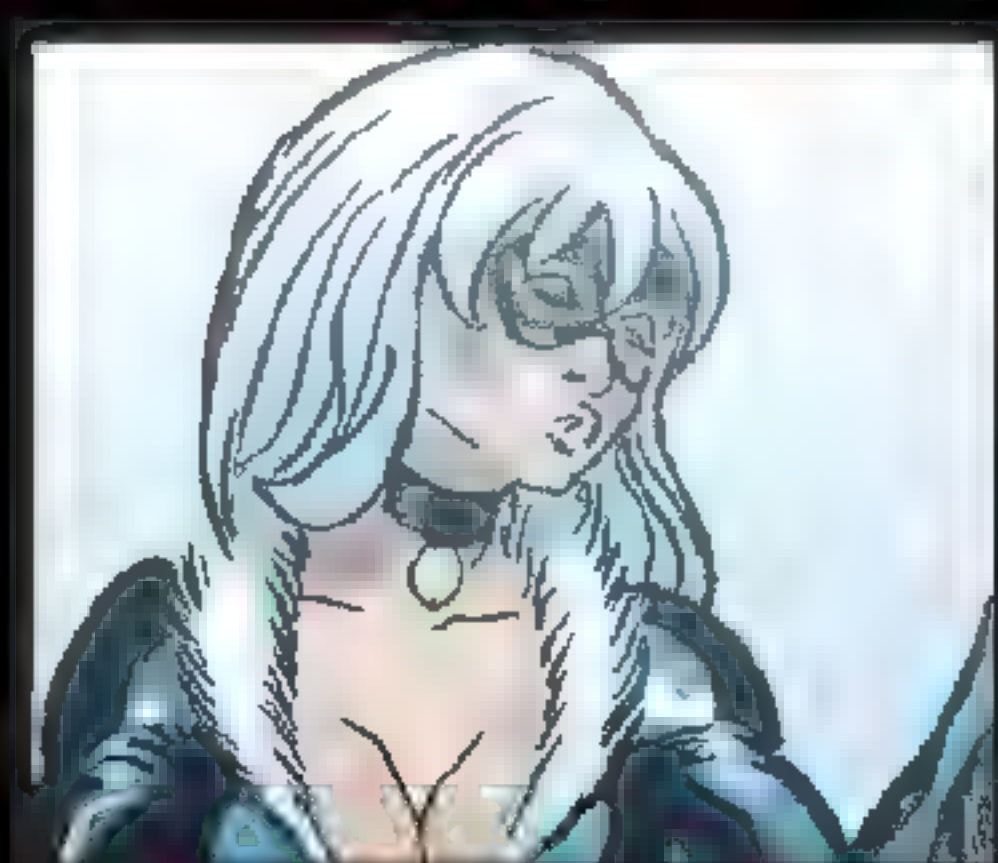
HEROES FOR HIRE



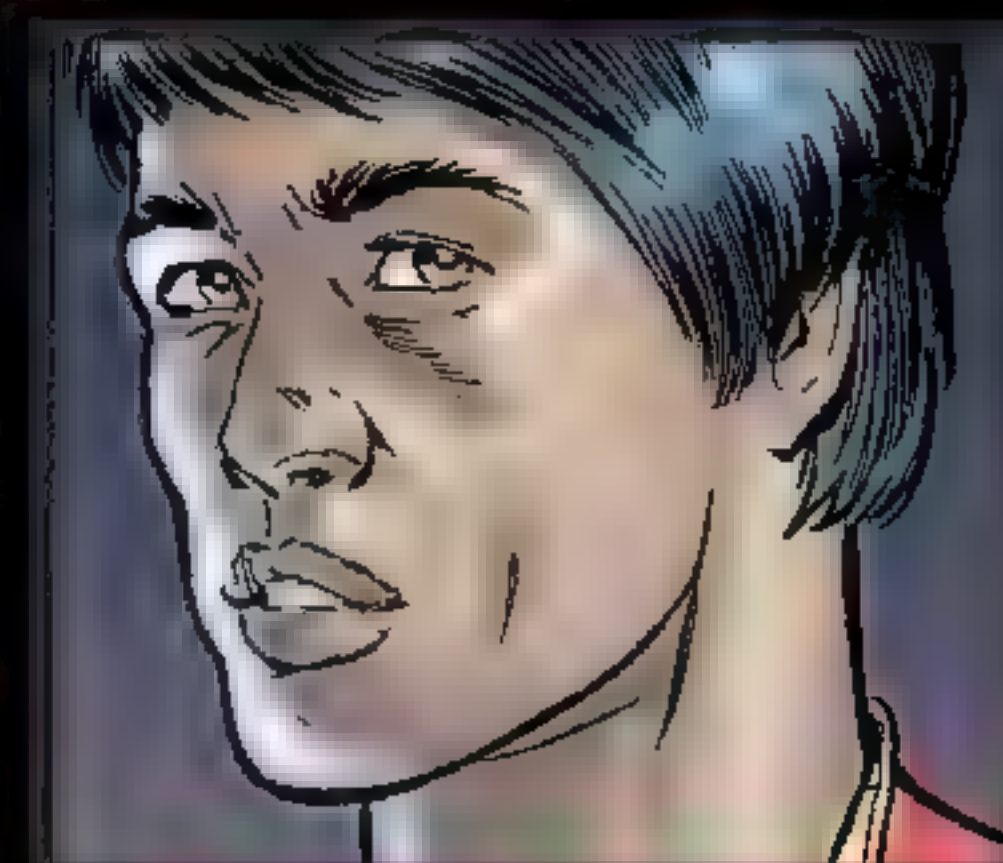
MISTY KNIGHT



COLLEEN WING



BLACK CAT



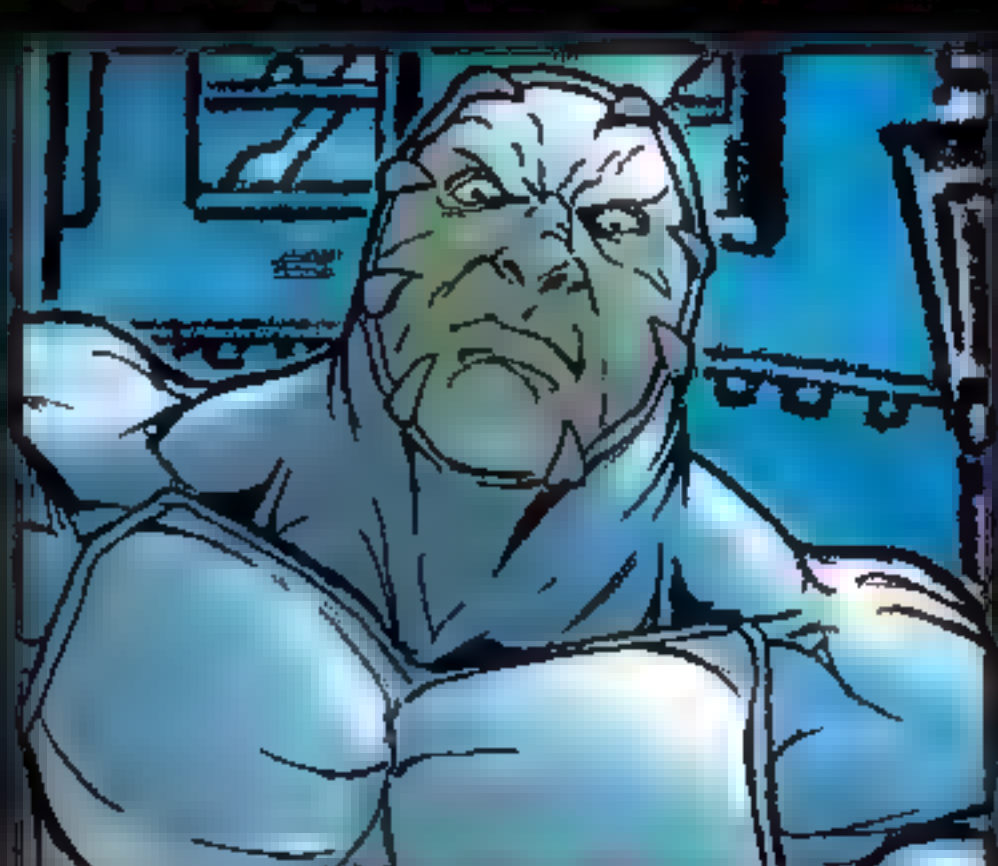
**SHANG-CHI,
MASTER OF
KUNG FU**



TARANTULA



HUMBUG



ORKA



PALADIN

Having thrown Paladin off the team for selling them out, Misty and the gang have turned their attention towards an evil organization known simply as The Corporation, which has begun transplanting Skrull organs into super-villains, allowing them to shape-shift at will.

Under orders from Veil, the supposed leader of The Corporation, a handful of these villain/Skrull hybrids broke Ricadonna, a heated enemy of Misty Knight, out of prison. Ricadonna, knowing she was soon-to-be a free woman, already sent the Heroes For Hire a little homecoming gift...



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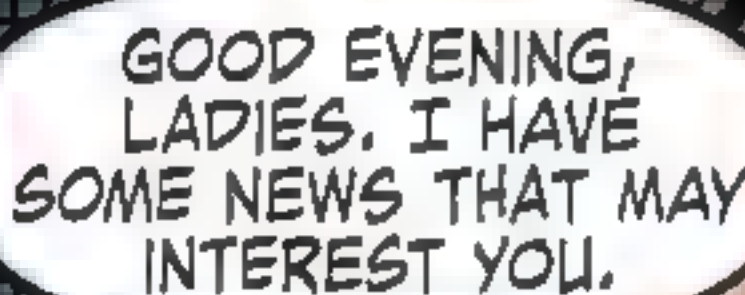
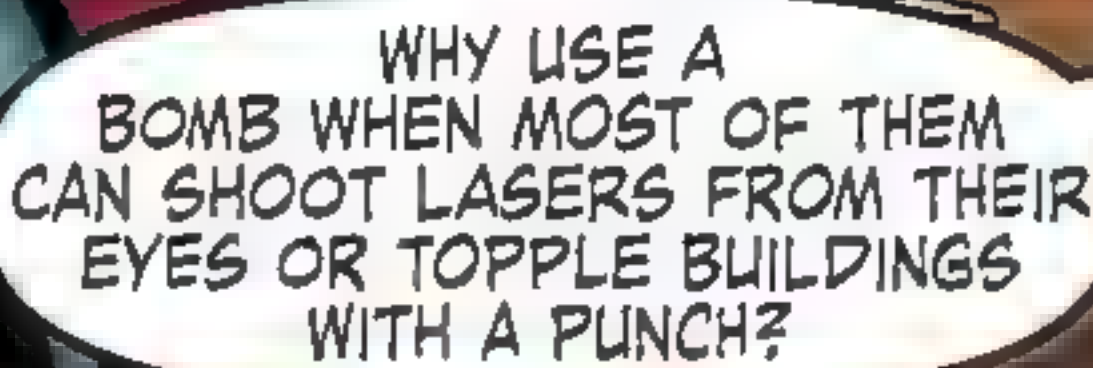
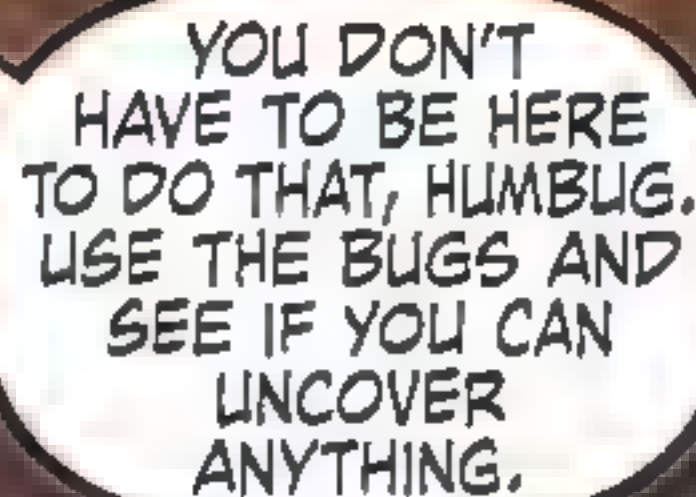
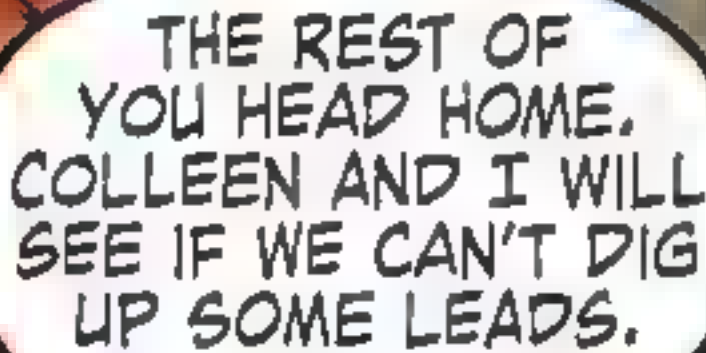
To find Marvel Comics at a local comic shop, call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

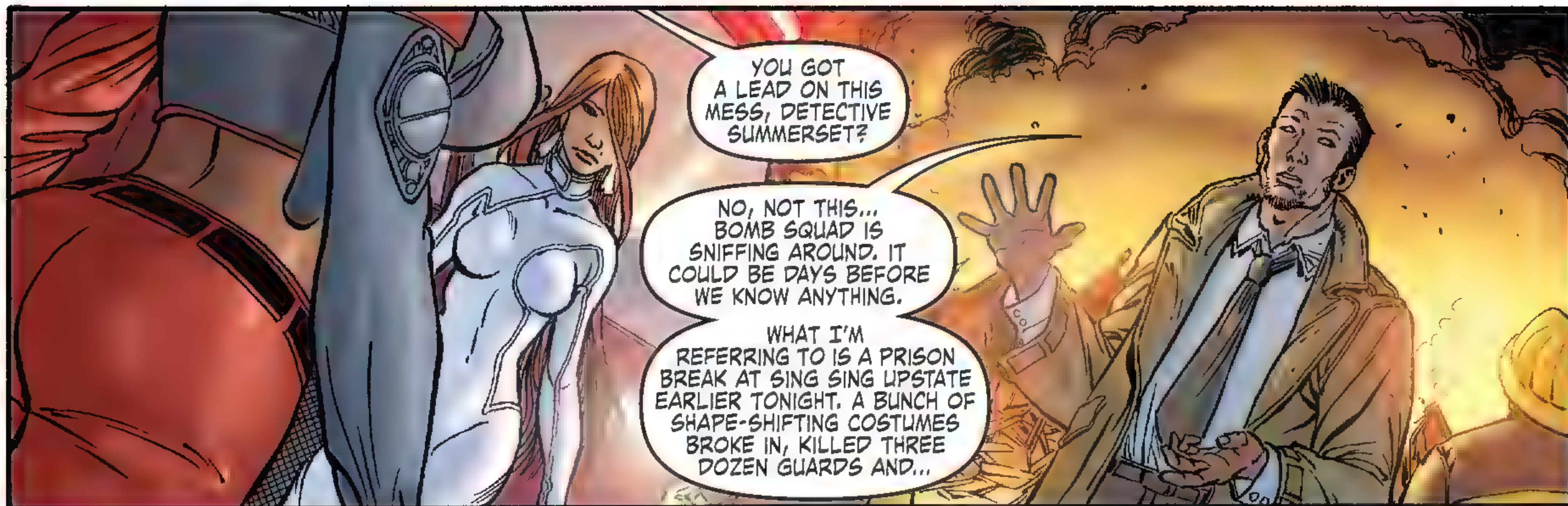
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CHINATOWN.

EVERYTHING
WE HAD WAS IN
THAT OFFICE!



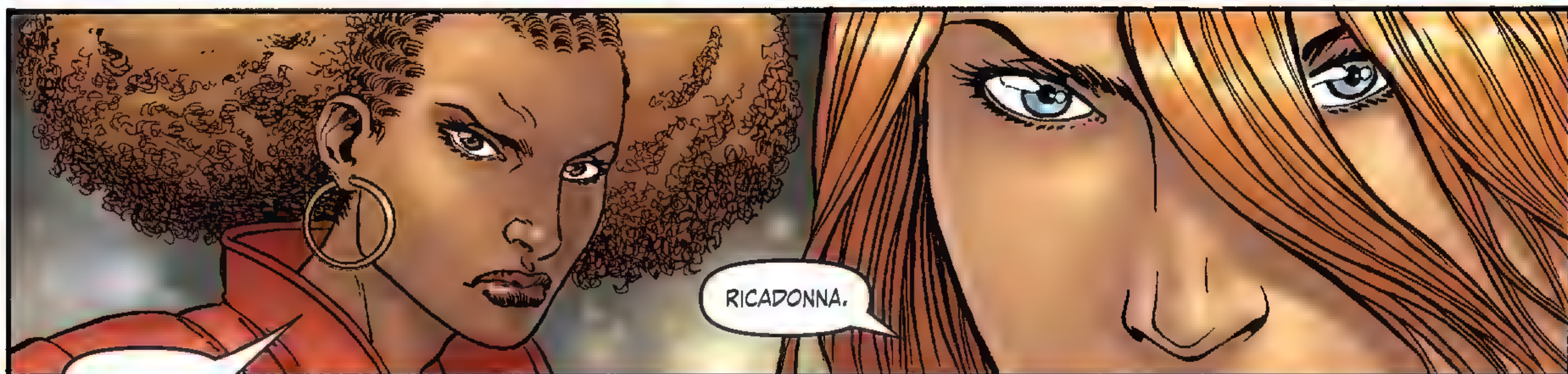




YOU GOT
A LEAD ON THIS
MESS, DETECTIVE
SUMMERSET?

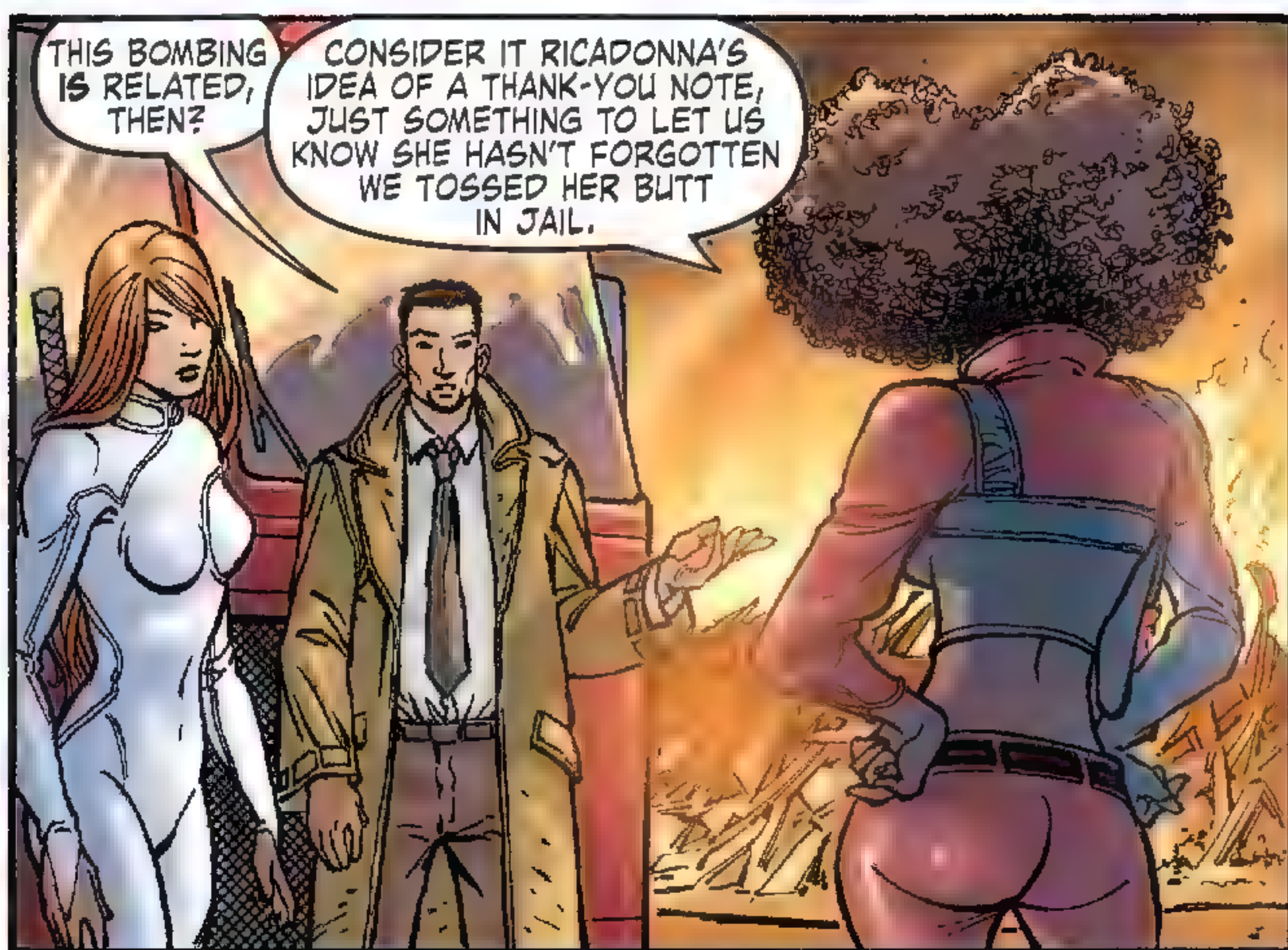
NO, NOT THIS...
BOMB SQUAD IS
SNIFFING AROUND. IT
COULD BE DAYS BEFORE
WE KNOW ANYTHING.

WHAT I'M
REFERRING TO IS A PRISON
BREAK AT SING SING UPSTATE
EARLIER TONIGHT. A BUNCH OF
SHAPE-SHIFTING COSTUMES
BROKE IN, KILLED THREE
DOZEN GUARDS AND...



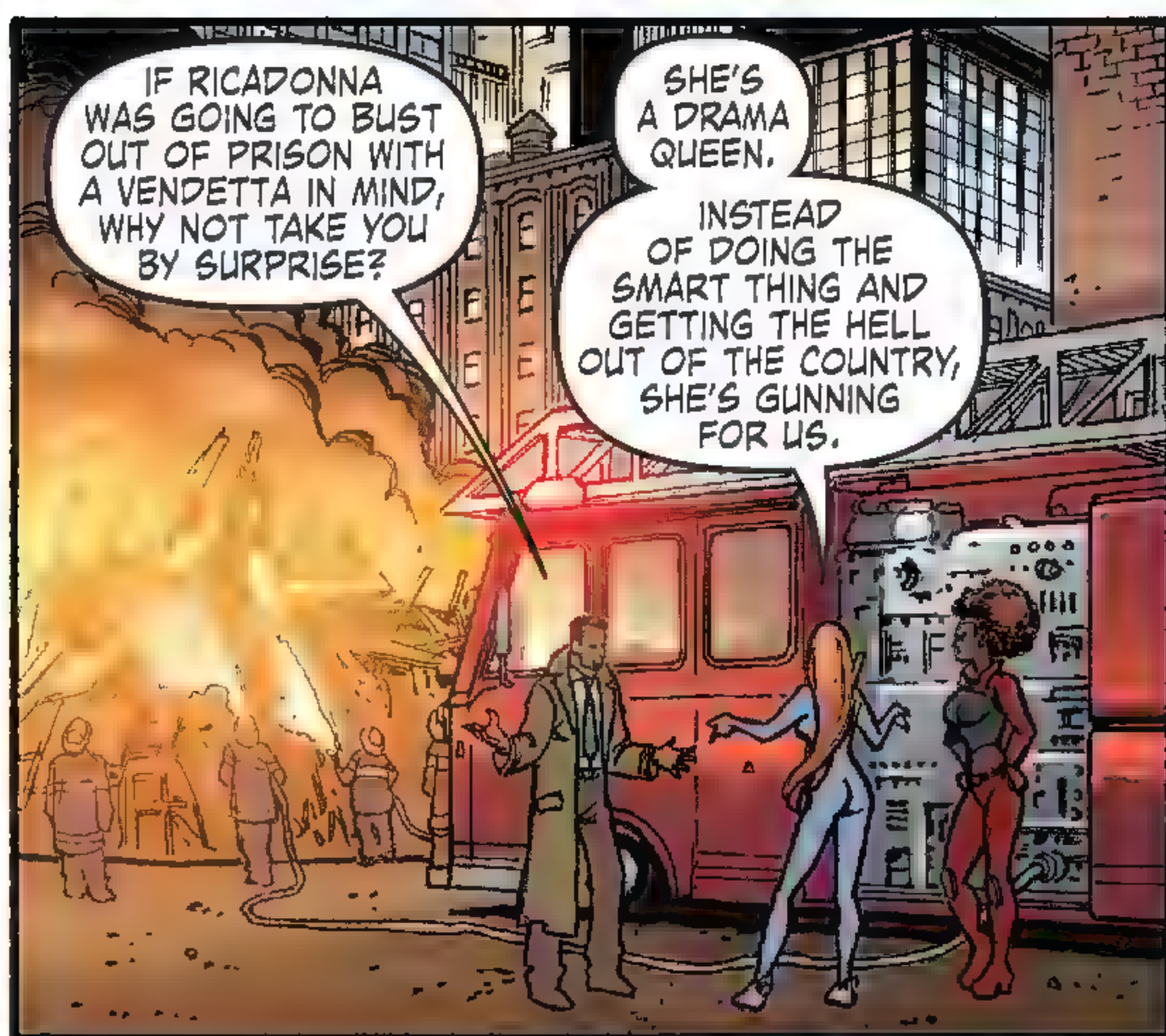
RICADONNA.

THAT @#&*!



THIS BOMBING
IS RELATED,
THEN?

CONSIDER IT RICADONNA'S
IDEA OF A THANK-YOU NOTE,
JUST SOMETHING TO LET US
KNOW SHE HASN'T FORGOTTEN
WE TOSSED HER BUTT
IN JAIL.



IF RICADONNA
WAS GOING TO BUST
OUT OF PRISON WITH
A VENDETTA IN MIND,
WHY NOT TAKE YOU
BY SURPRISE?

SHE'S
A DRAMA
QUEEN.

INSTEAD
OF DOING THE
SMART THING AND
GETTING THE HELL
OUT OF THE COUNTRY,
SHE'S GUNNING
FOR US.



THEY NEVER
LEARN, DO THEY,
ALAN?

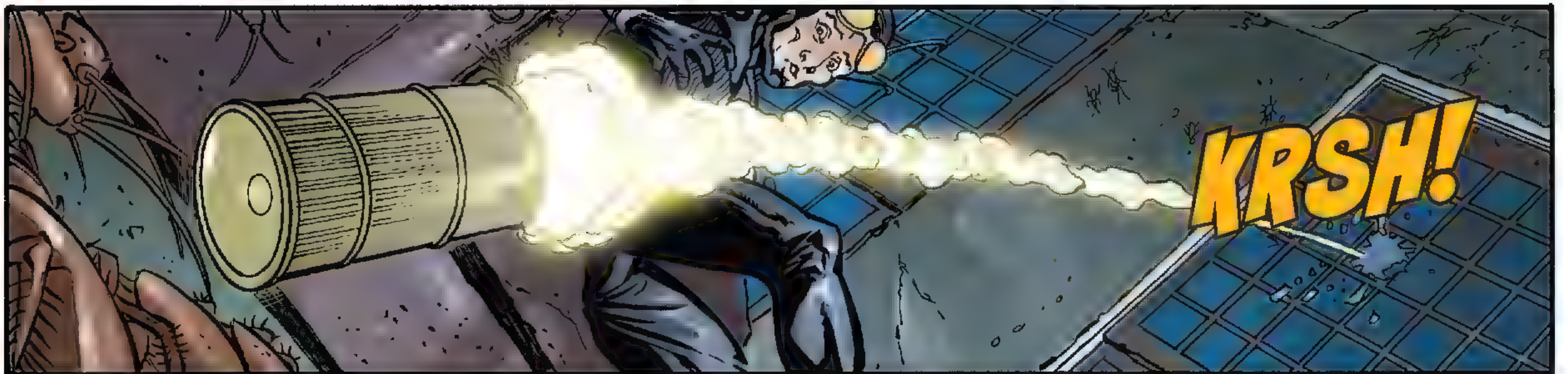
THEIR
STUPIDITY IS
WHAT KEEPS US IN
BUSINESS.

QUEENS, NEW YORK. HUMBUG.



...SO THIS GUY WILBUR TALKS TO THE HORSE, BUT HE IS THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN...HIS WIFE THINKS HE IS NUTS, BUT WE KNOW BETTER.

THIS EPISODE, MR. ED ORDERS A HALF-DOZEN PEPPERONI PIZZAS AND WILBUR HAS TO PAY...IT REALLY IS FUNNY STUFF.



KRSH!



TODAY IS YOUR LUCKY DAY, BUG-BOY! YER GONNA MAKE ME FAMOUS!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?



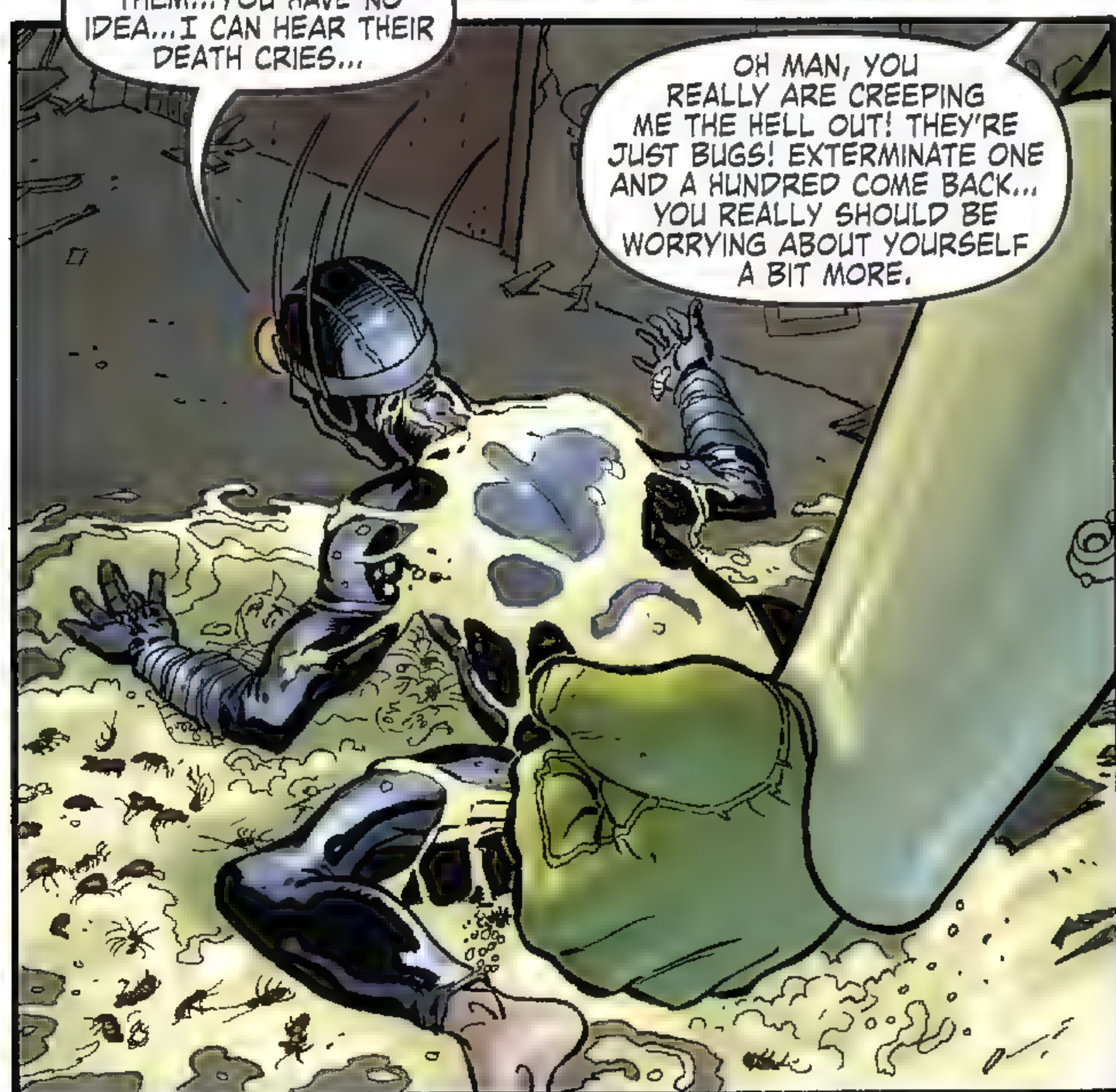
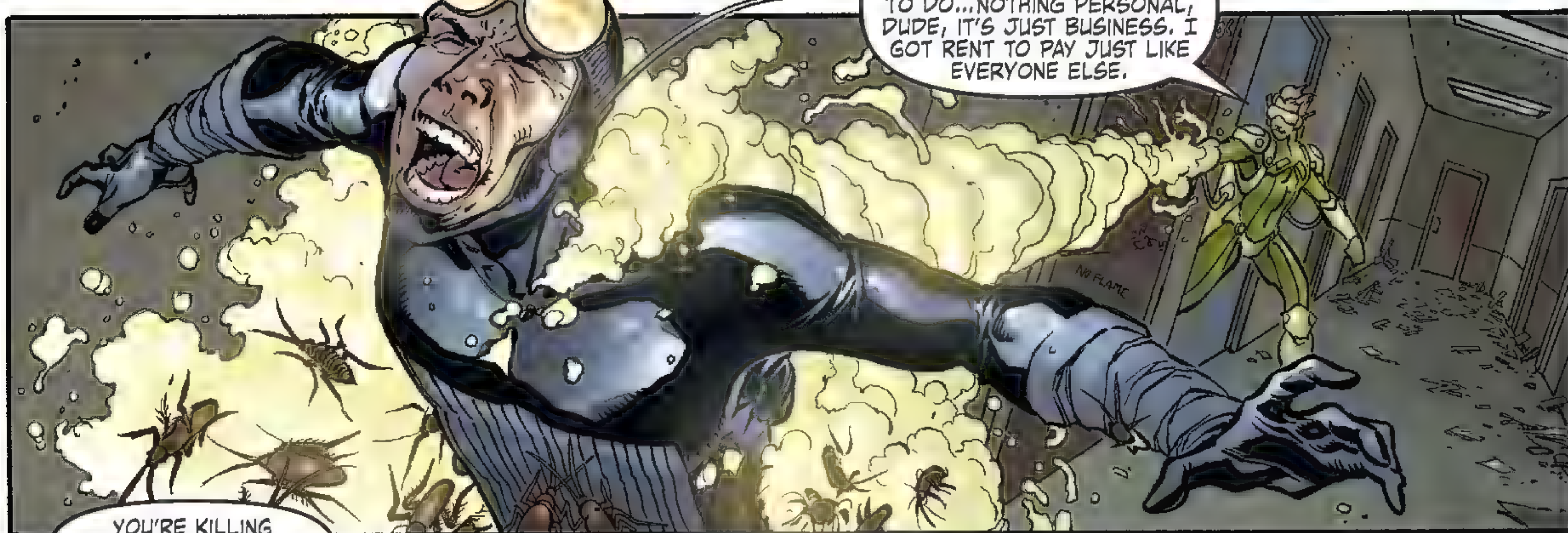
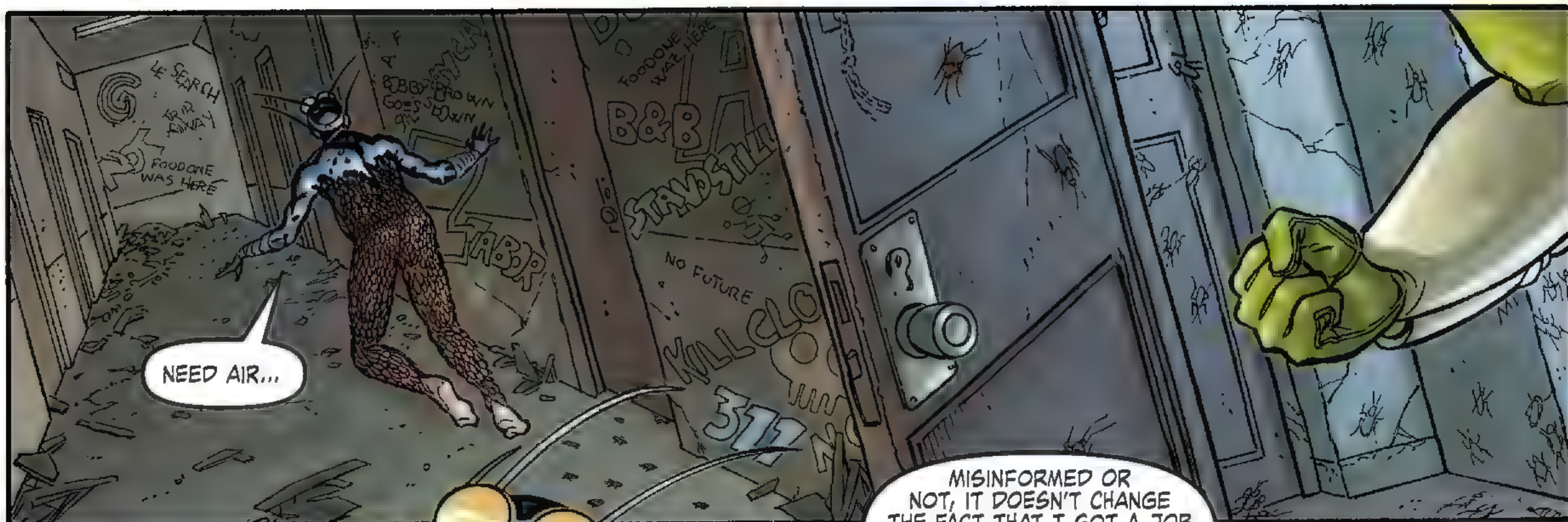
NAME'S INSECTICIDE... AND YOU ARE GONNA BE MY FIRST VICTIM! THINK OF THE PRESS I'M GOING TO GET!

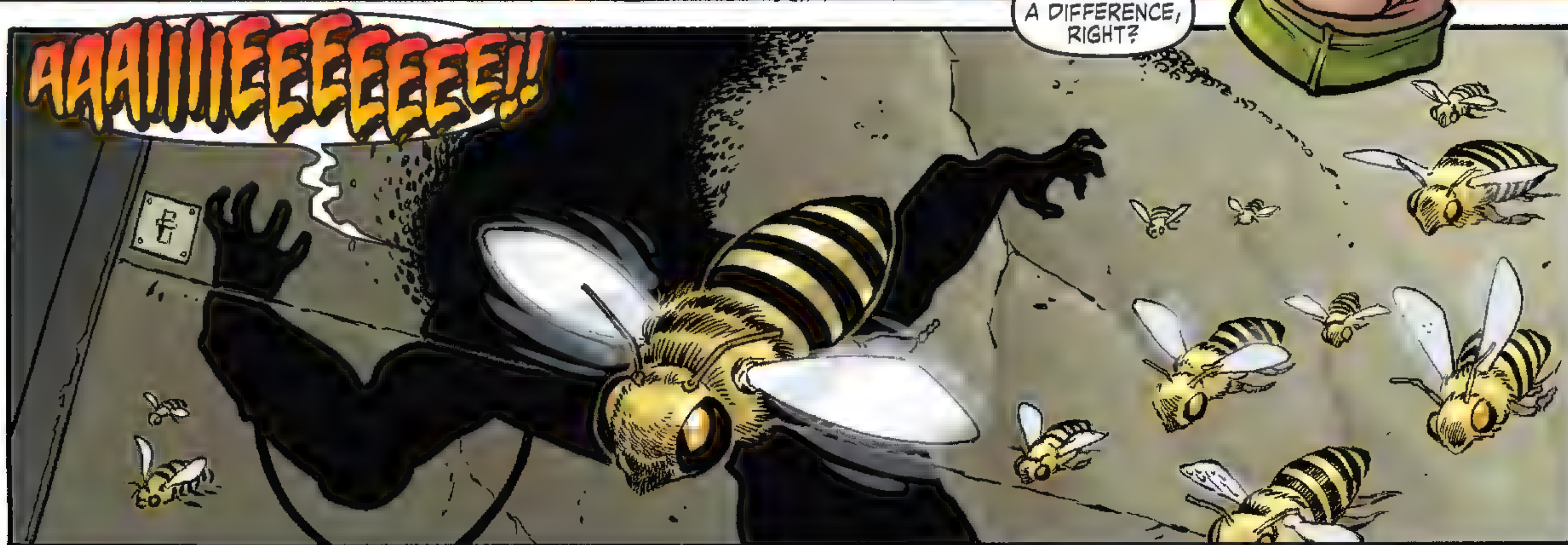
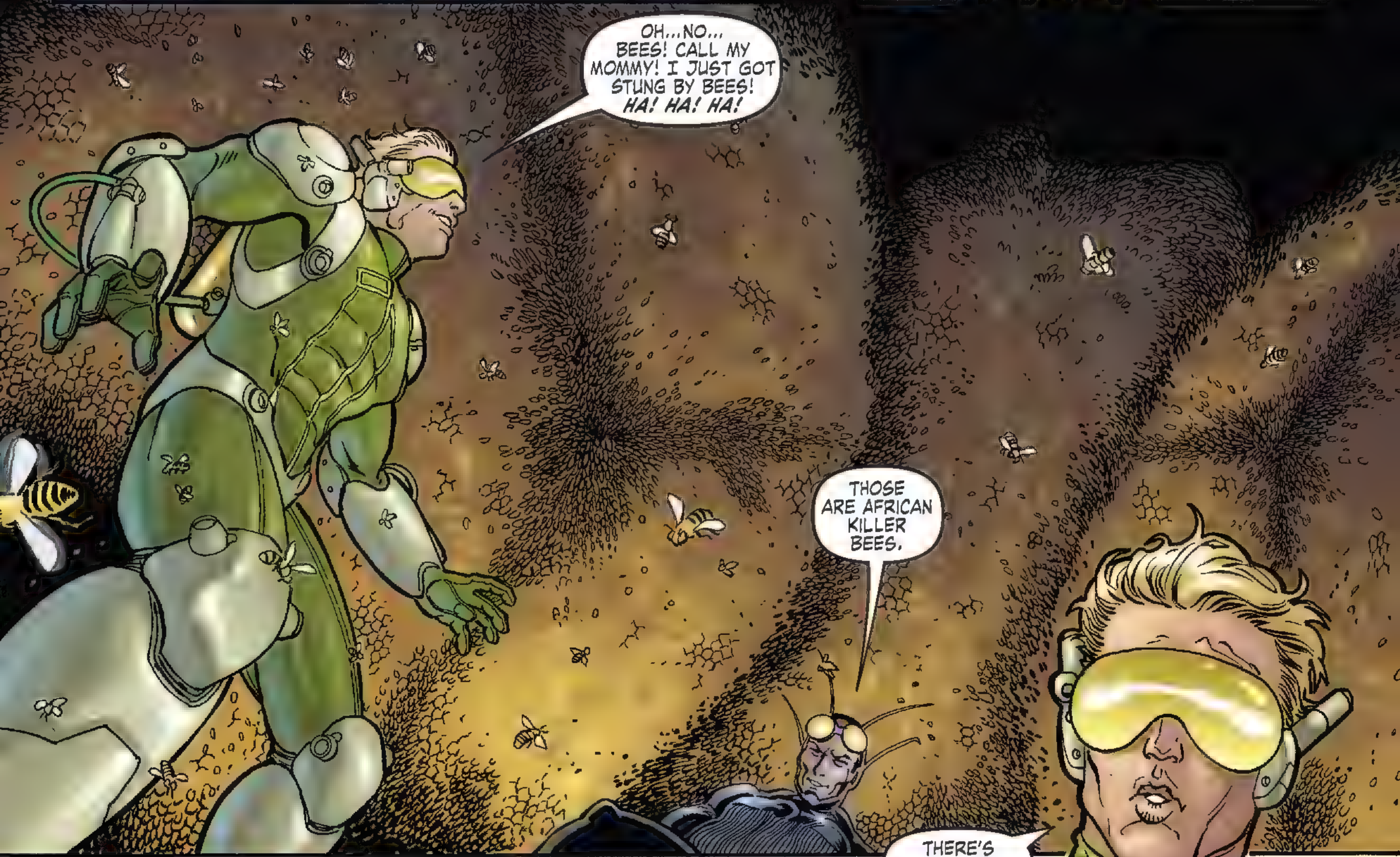
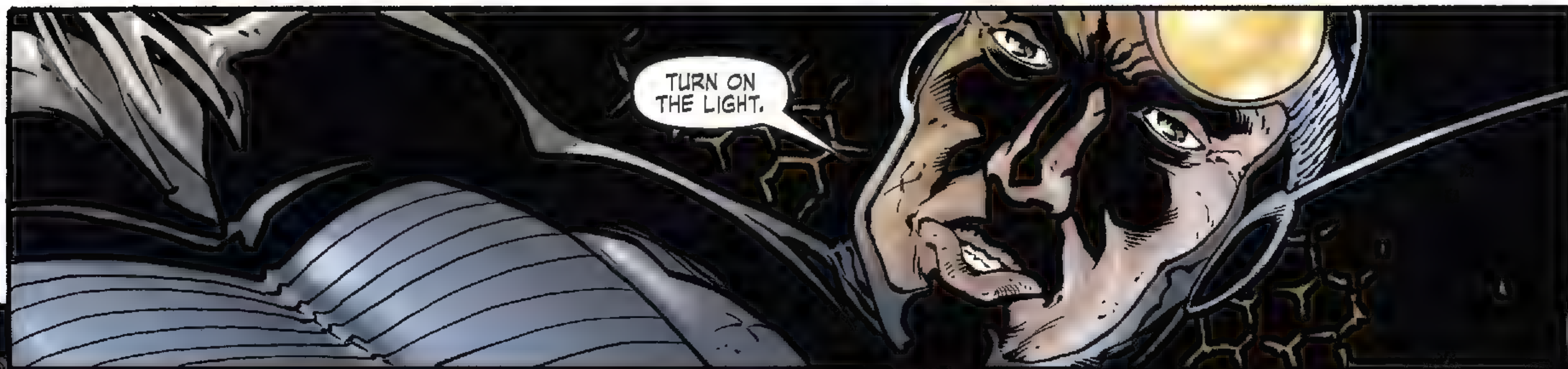
IMAGINE MY JOY GETTING MY FIRST GIG AND I HAVE TO KILL A GUY THAT HAS SEX WITH BUGS!

SEX? ARE YOU INSANE? THEY'RE JUST FRIENDS!



WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE EXCEPTIONALLY MISINFORMED.





STAMFORD,
CONNECTICUT.
TARANTULA.

YOUR SISTER
ROSA WAS SUCH A
BEAUTIFUL CHILD. SHE
DESERVED TO LIVE
A FULL LIFE.

I KNOW,
POP.

I'M ONLY
TRYING TO STOP OTHERS
FROM USING THEIR POWERS
AND MAKING THE SAME
MISTAKES.

BUT WHY
DO YOU HAVE TO
WEAR A COSTUME? WHY
CALL YOURSELF ANYTHING
BUT THE NAME YOUR
MOTHER AND I
GAVE YOU?

THAT'S
WHAT THE
KILLERS
DID.

YOU'RE
GOING TO
QUIT NOW,
RIGHT?

POPPY, I
VOLUNTEERED
WITH
THE GOVERNMENT, BUT
I STILL NEED A CODE
NAME TO PROTECT
YOU.

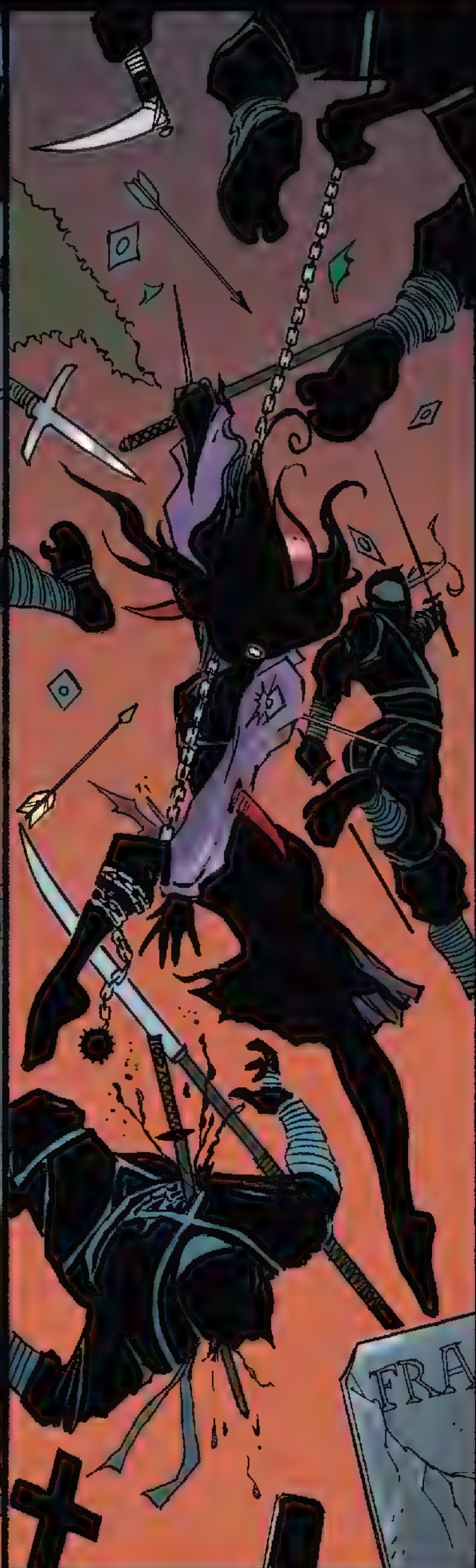
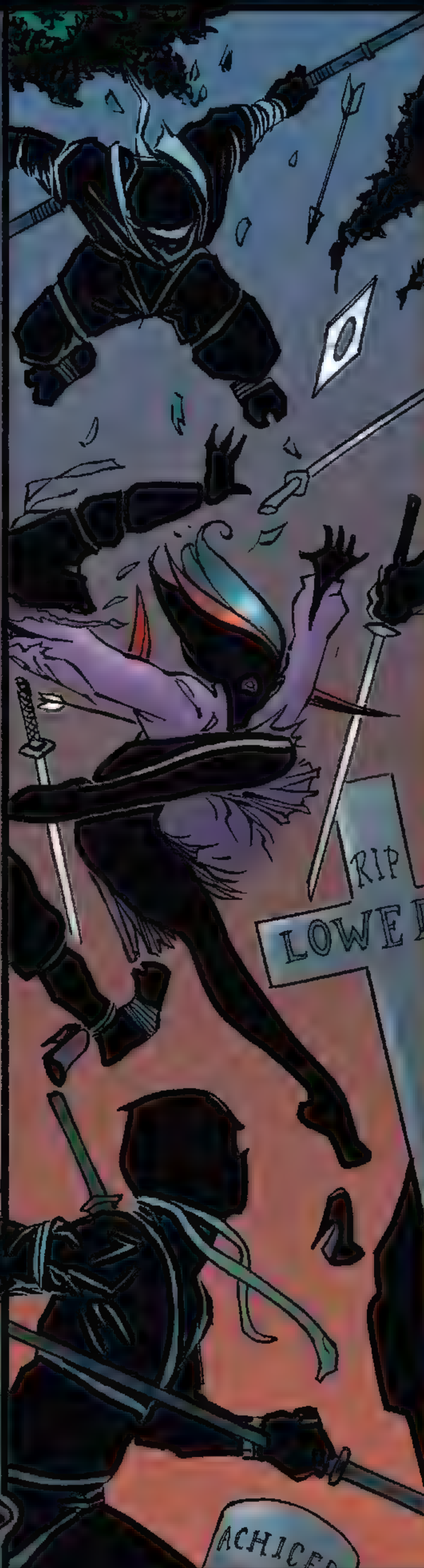
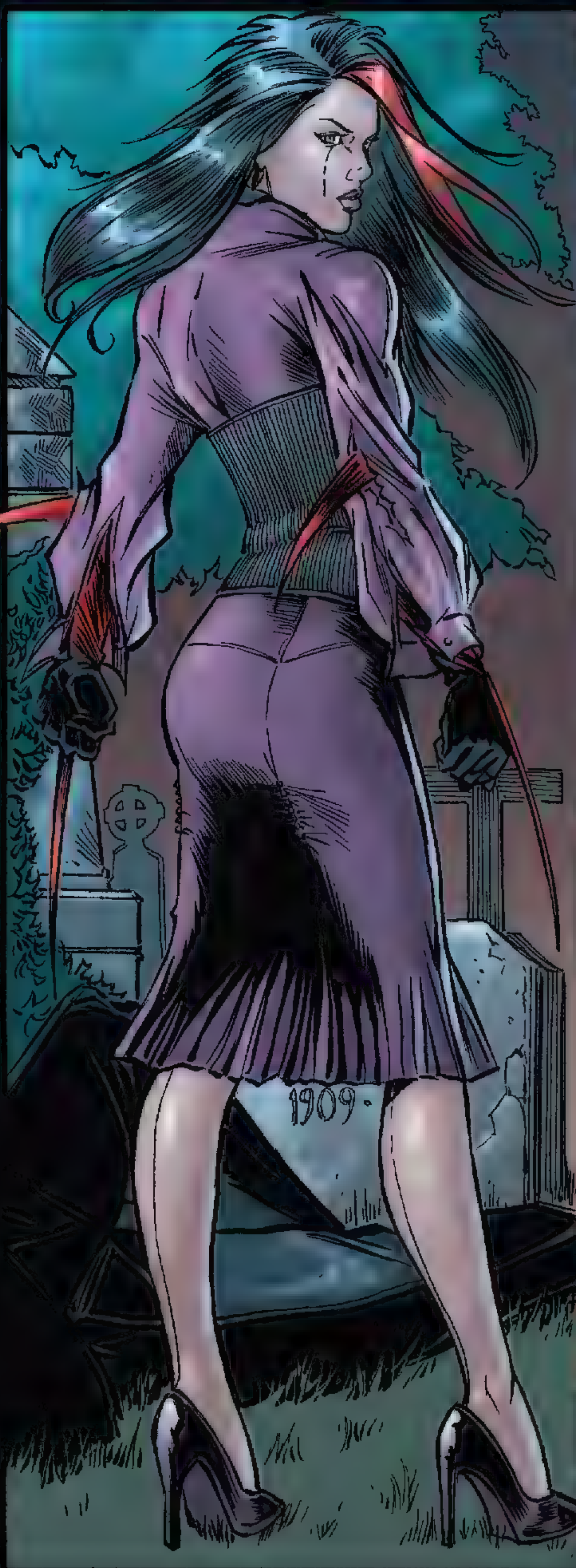
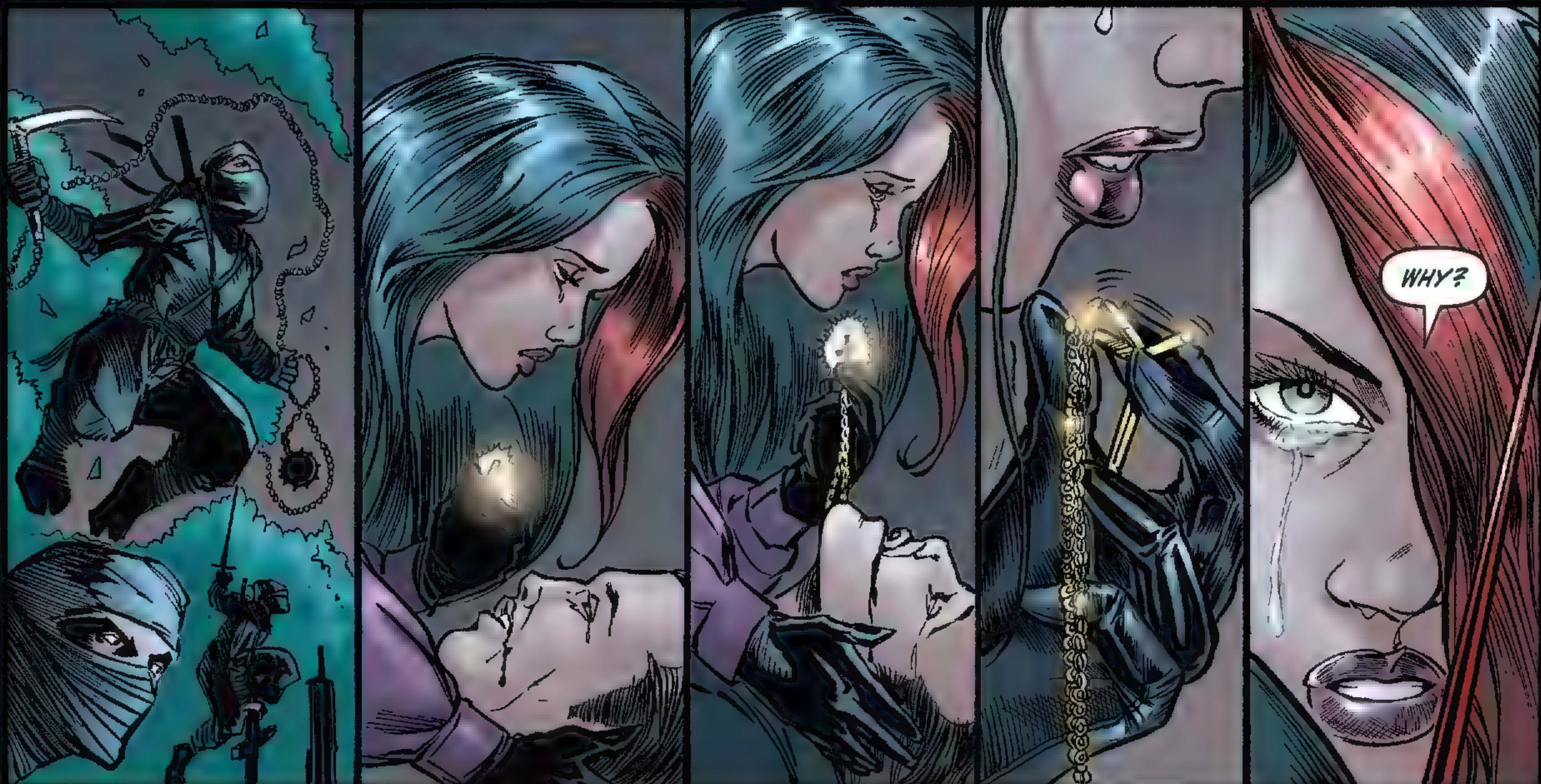
THESE ARE
VERY DANGEROUS
PEOPLE I'M AFTER; YOU
HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, THEY
WILL DO ANYTHING TO
GET AT ME...

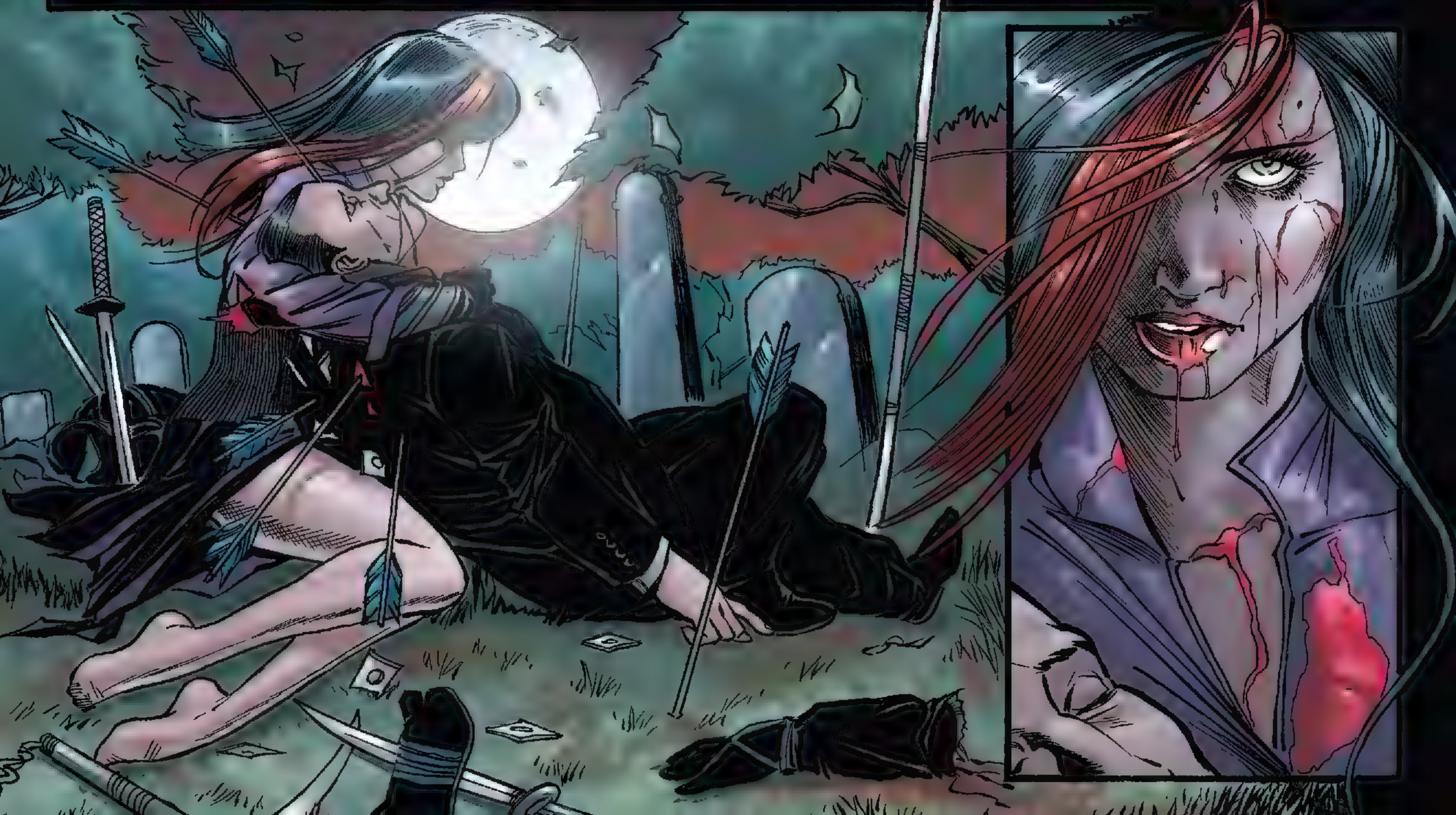
YOU'RE ALL I
HAVE LEFT, MARIA. GO
BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY
AND GRADUATE. A LAWYER
OR SCIENTIST CAN BE MORE
POWERFUL THAN ANY WOMAN
IN A COSTUME.

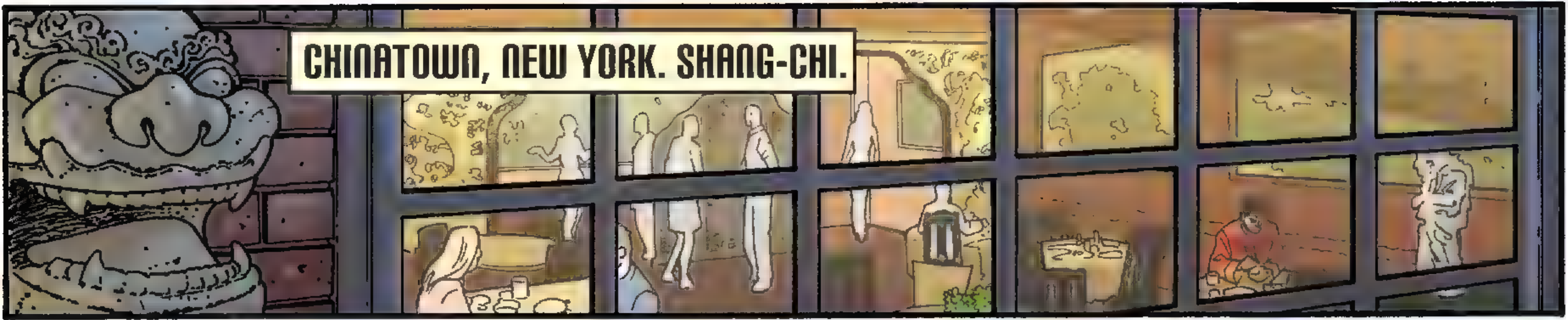
PLEASE,
MARIA. THERE
CAN BE NO REVENGE
FOR ROSA. IF YOU DIE,
I'LL BE ALONE,
LOST...

HUKK!

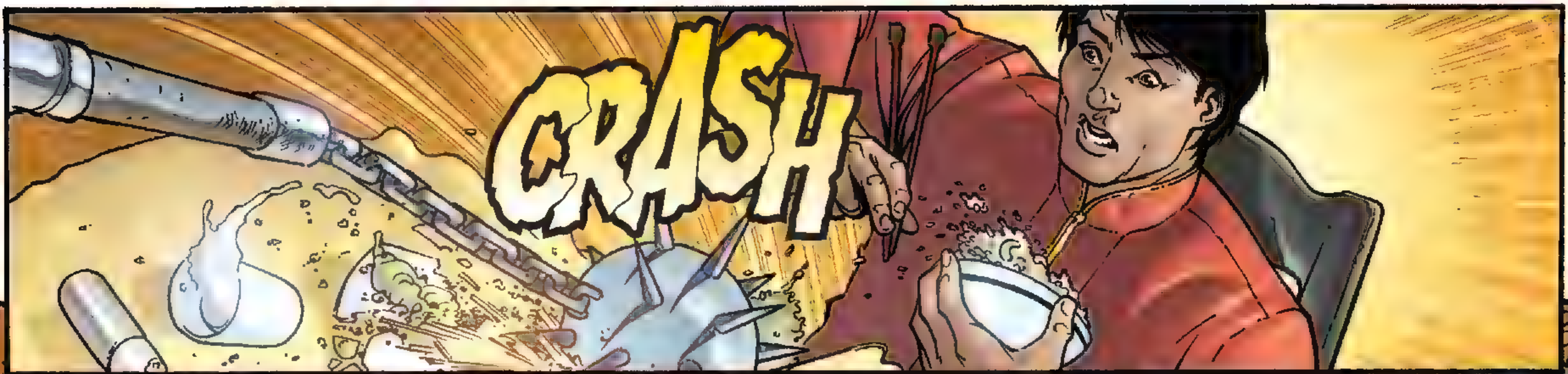
POP!







CHINATOWN, NEW YORK. SHANG-CHI.

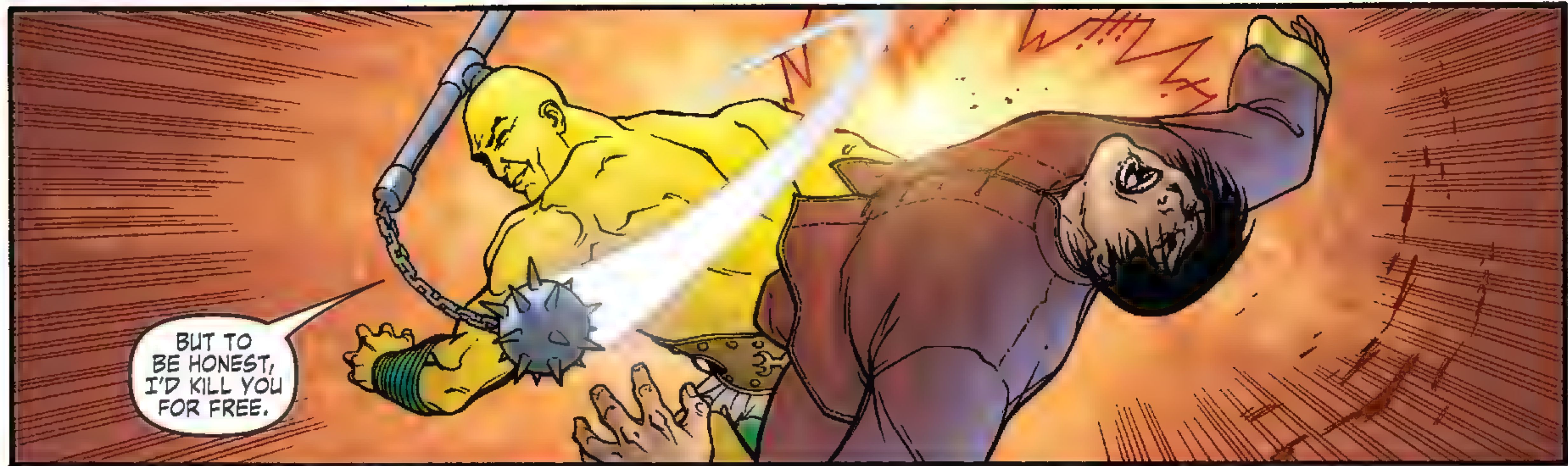


BEEN A WHILE, SHANG. I SEE YOU'VE KEPT IN SHAPE.

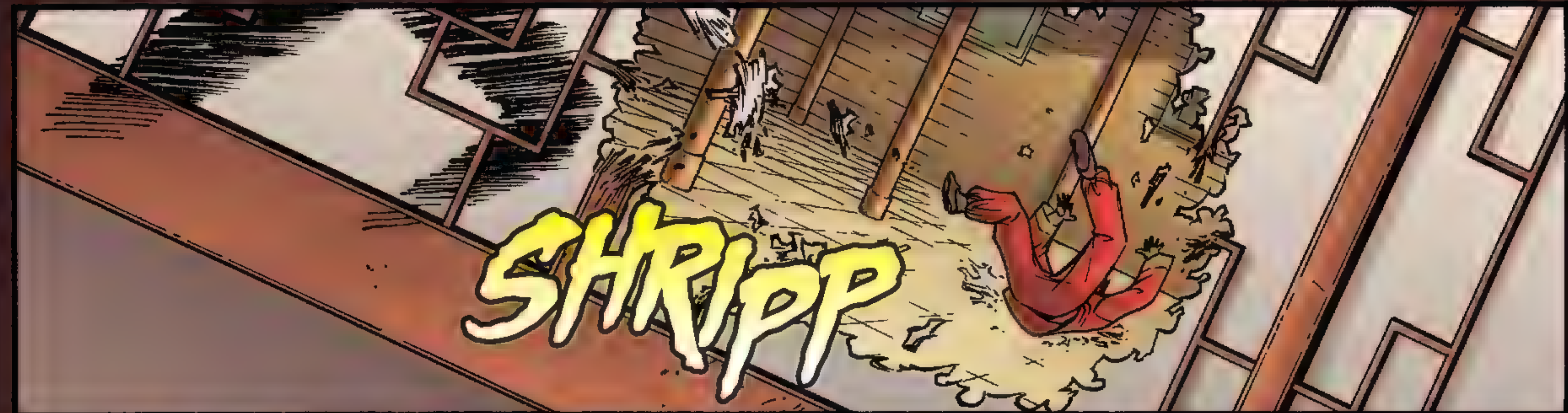
MIND, BODY AND SOUL, SHADOW STALKER. I HEARD YOU WERE BACK IN THE MAINLAND.



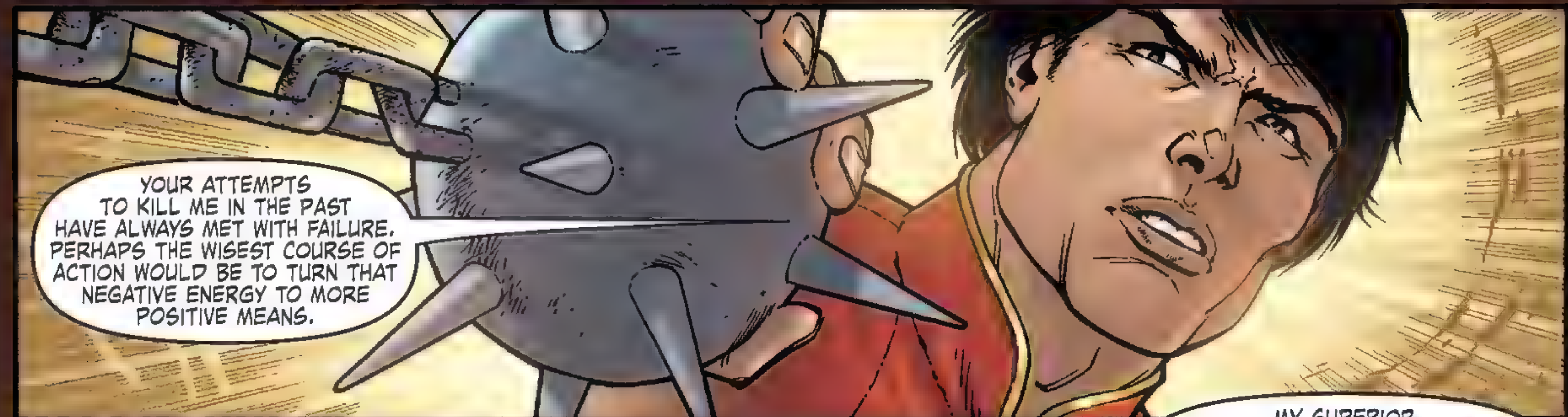
I'M WILLING TO GO INTERNATIONAL WHEN THE MONEY'S GOOD.



BUT TO BE HONEST, I'D KILL YOU FOR FREE.



SHRIPP



YOUR ATTEMPTS
TO KILL ME IN THE PAST
HAVE ALWAYS MET WITH FAILURE.
PERHAPS THE WISEST COURSE OF
ACTION WOULD BE TO TURN THAT
NEGATIVE ENERGY TO MORE
POSITIVE MEANS.



MY SUPERIOR
ATTACK IS BUT A REACTION TO
YOUR MALADJUSTED AGGRESSION.
I AM MORE THAN WILLING TO PUT AN
END TO THIS FOLLY AND SPEAK
AS MEN DO.

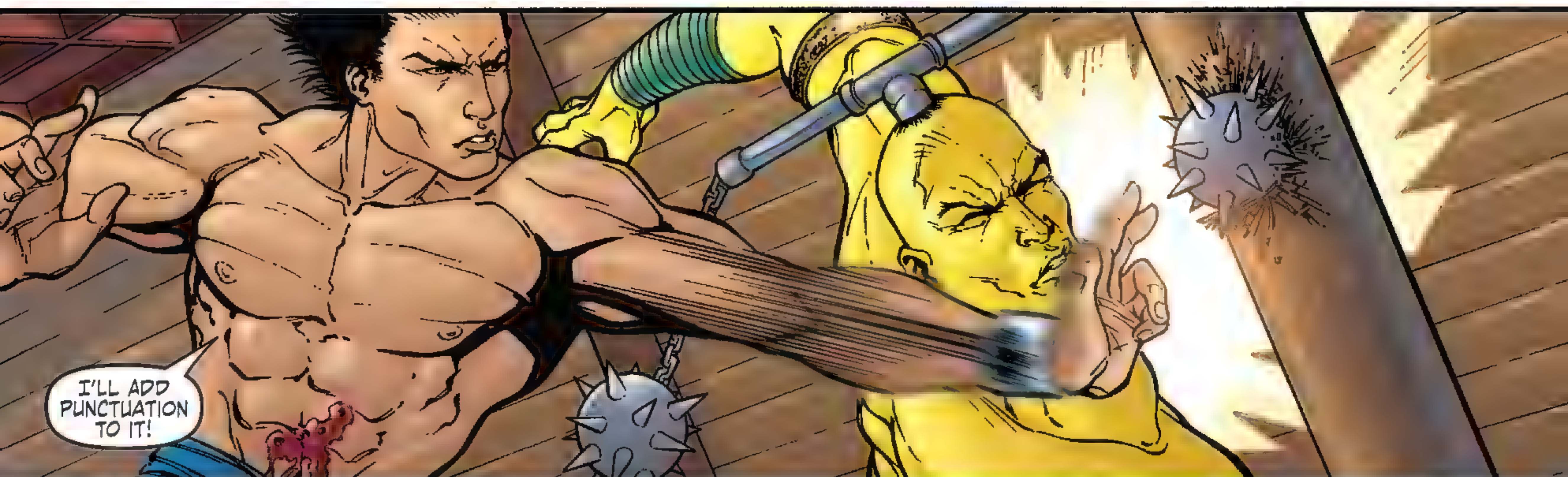
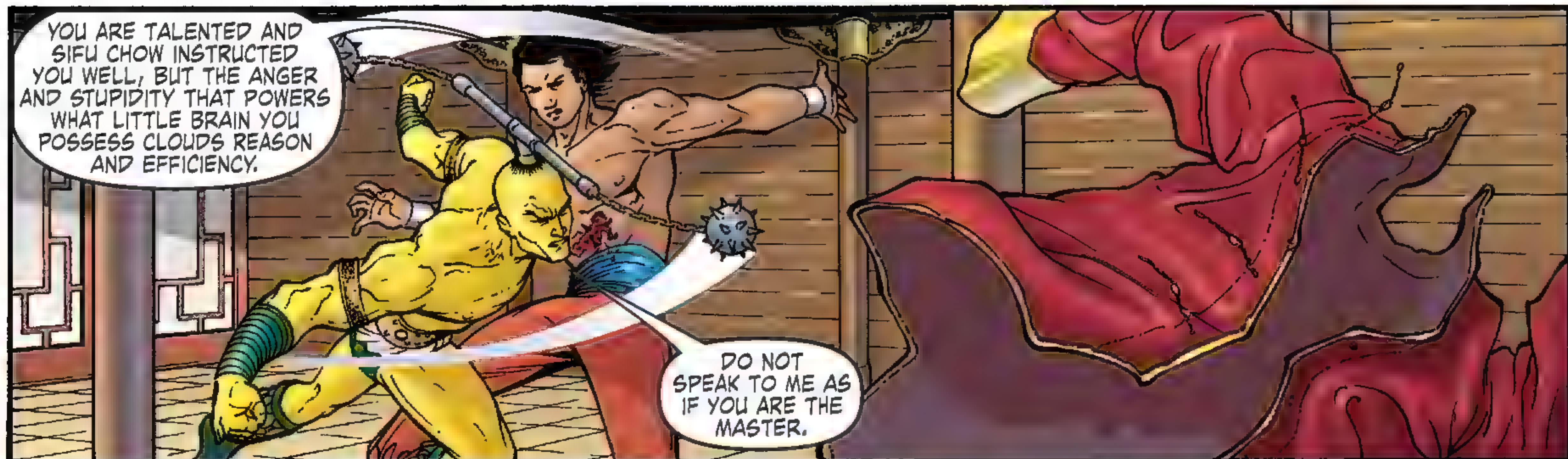


NOT TODAY.

WHUMP



SO BE IT...
I OFFERED AMPLE
WARNING.



THE GOLDEN DRAGON RESTAURANT.

ALL RIGHT,
EVERYBODY CALM
DOWN!

INSECTICIDE?
WHAT KIND OF *STUPID*
NAME IS THAT? THE GUY
WAS ONE CLOWN SHORT OF
A *CIRCUS*! HE BROKE MY
FREAKIN' ARM!

HAS ANYBODY
HEARD FROM
TARANTULA?

I'M HERE...

GIRL, WHAT
HAPPENED?

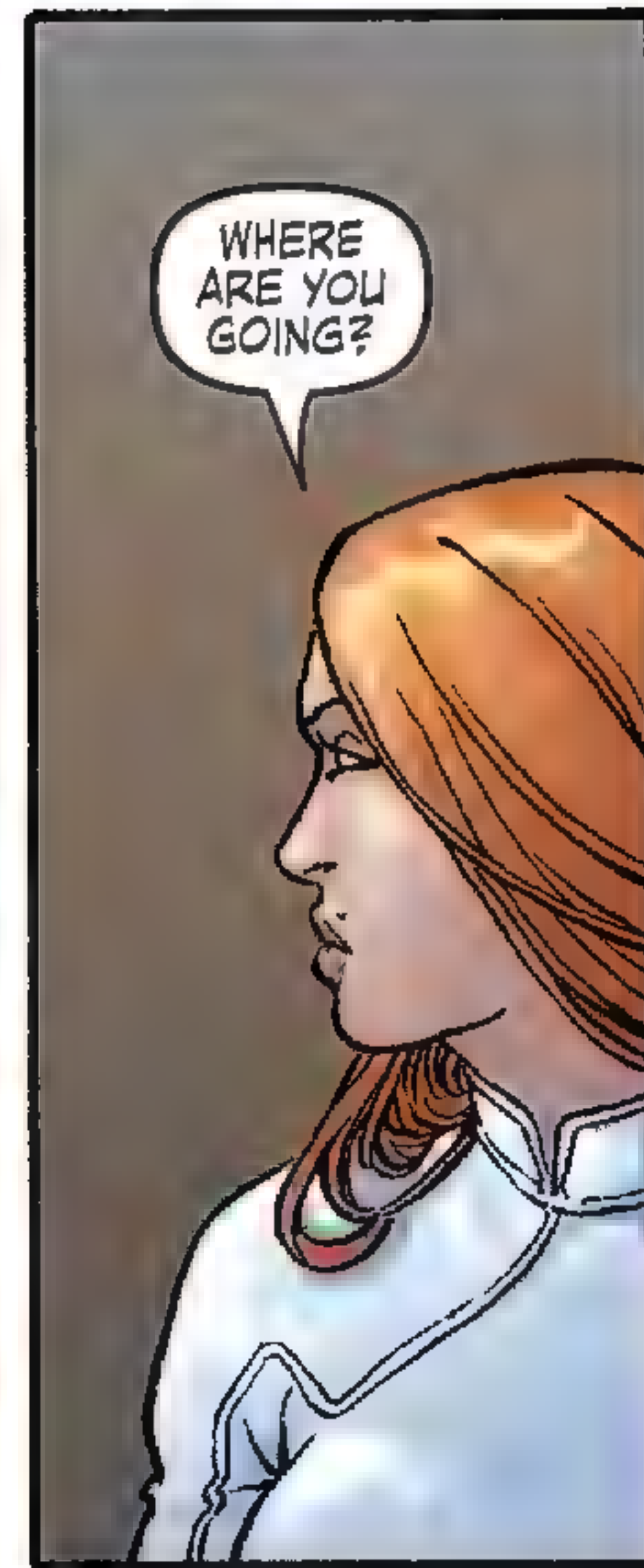
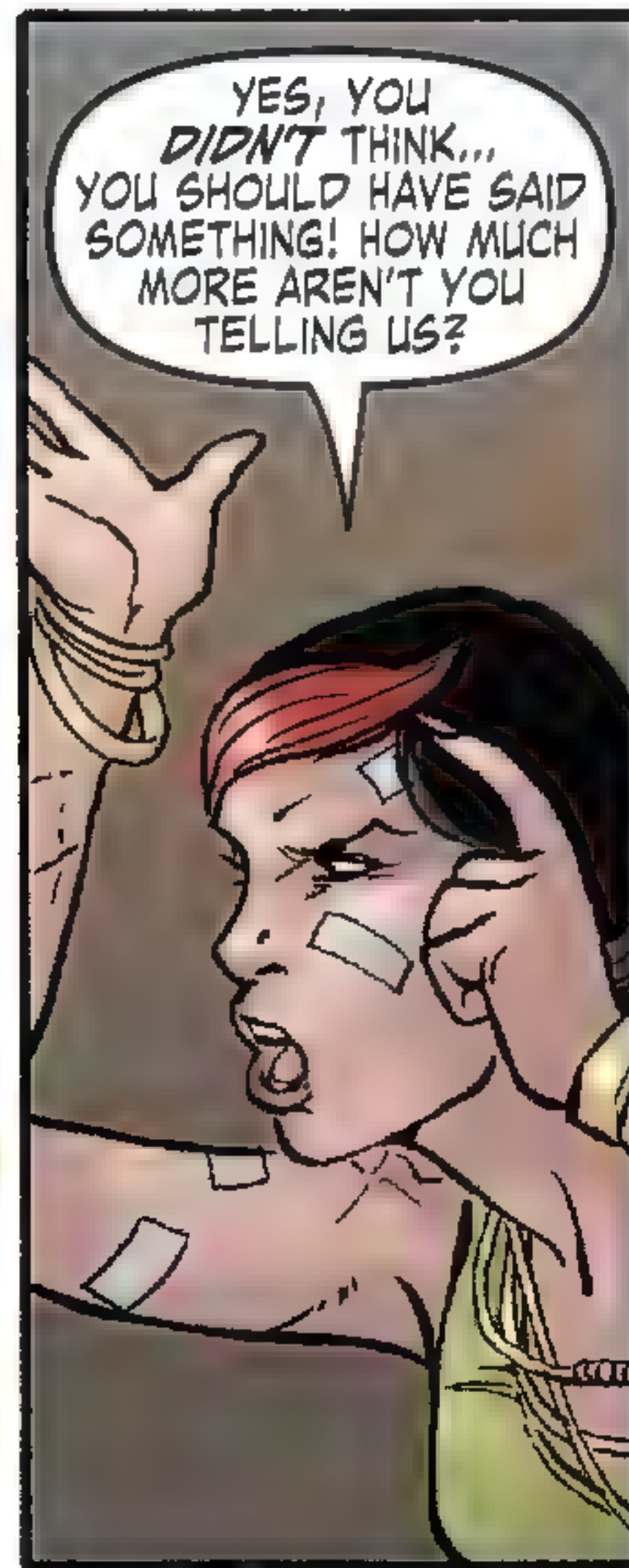
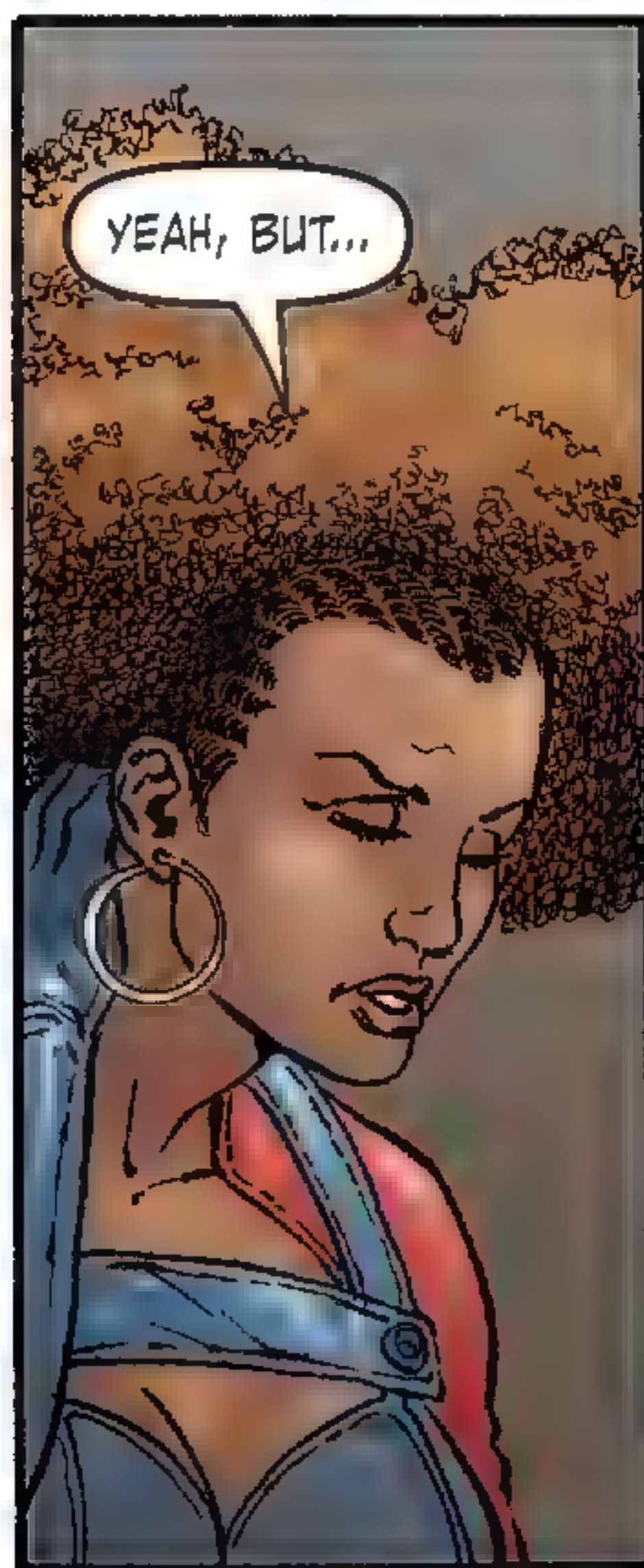
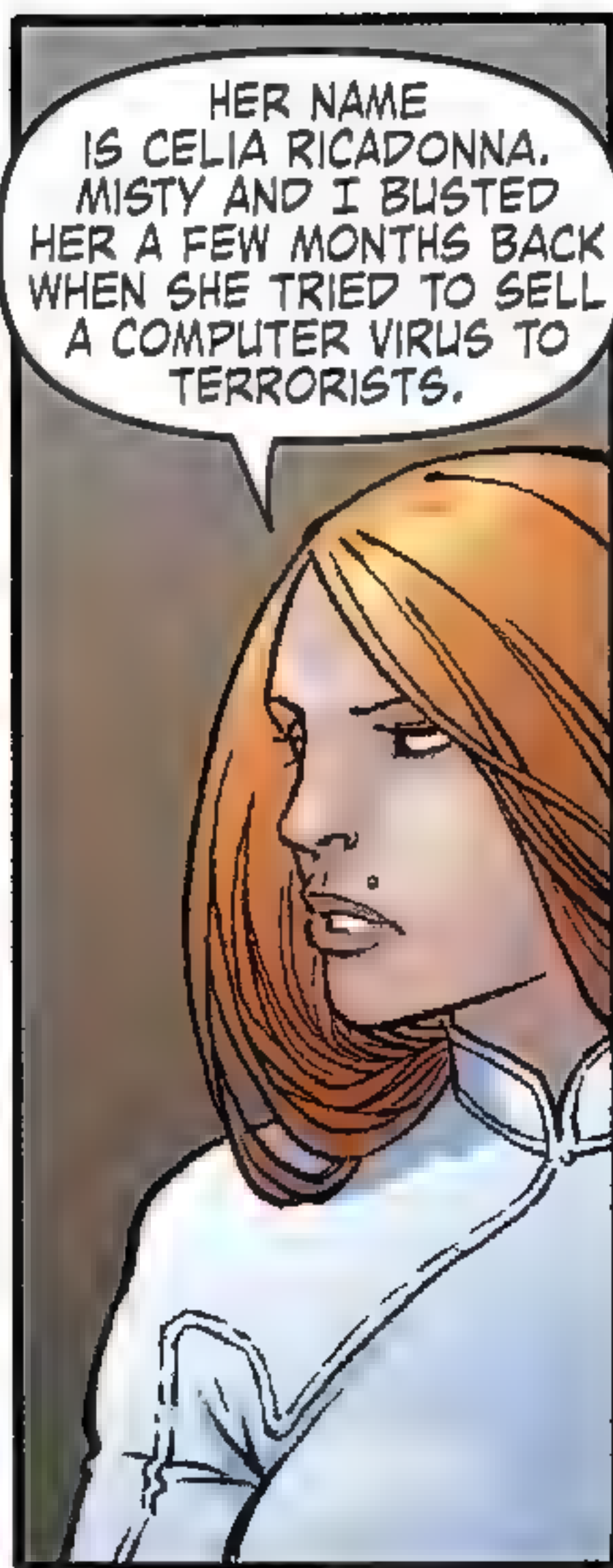
NINJAS
TRIED TO
KILL ME.

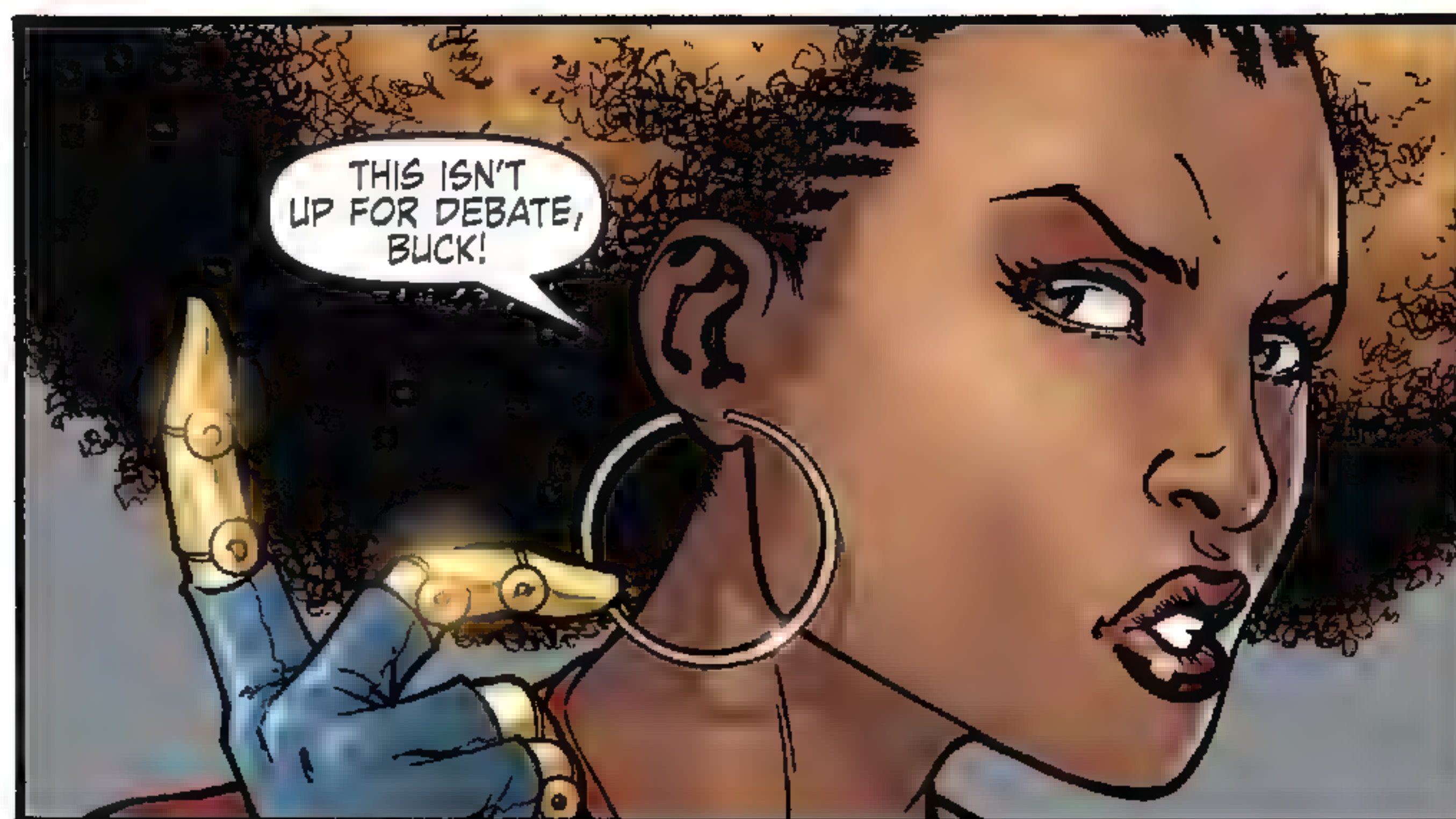
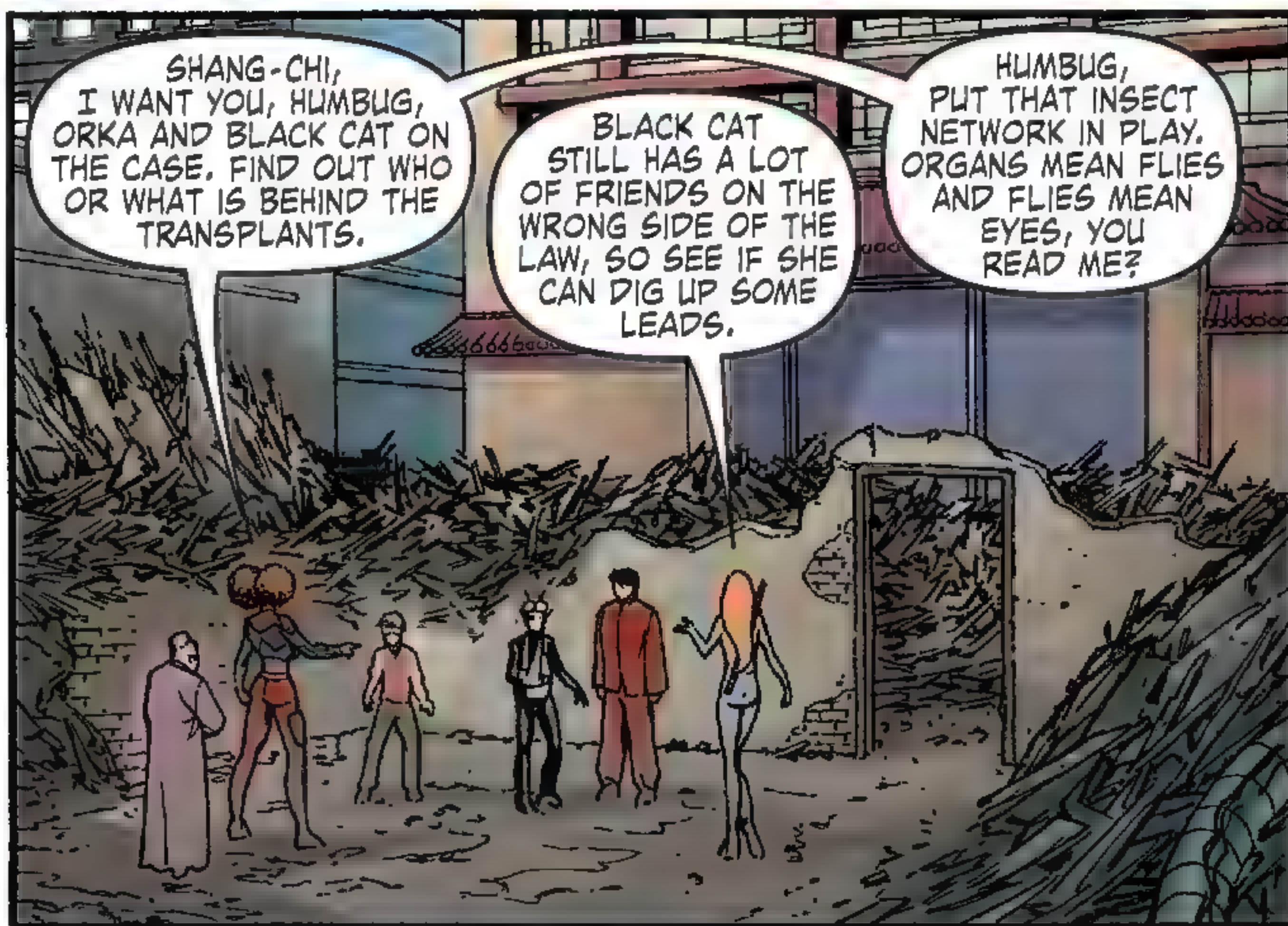
I
KILLED THEM
BACK.

I HAD AN
INCIDENT SIMILAR TO
YOURS, BUT I SENSE A
GREATER LOSS.

I'D RATHER
NOT TALK ABOUT IT
JUST NOW, IF YOU
DON'T MIND.

UNDERSTOOD
AND RESPECTED.





ONE HOUR LATER...

I HATE
THIS
PLACE.

YEAH...
IT'S SICK, BUT THE
TODDLER WILL KNOW
WHAT WE *NEED*
TO KNOW.

UGGGG...
HATE THE TODDLER,
TOO.

HATE THE
SMELL OF THIS
PLACE, TOO. IT'S
LIKE GALLONS OF
BABY OIL AND
FOUL SWEAT.

BE COOL.

FREAKS.

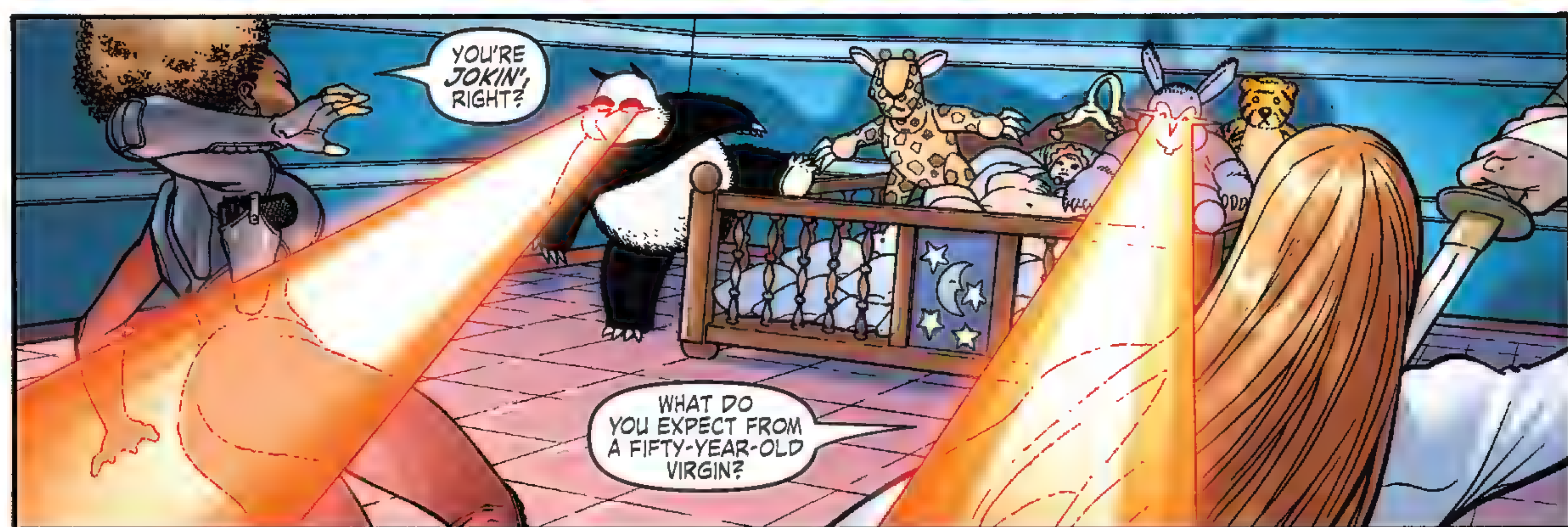
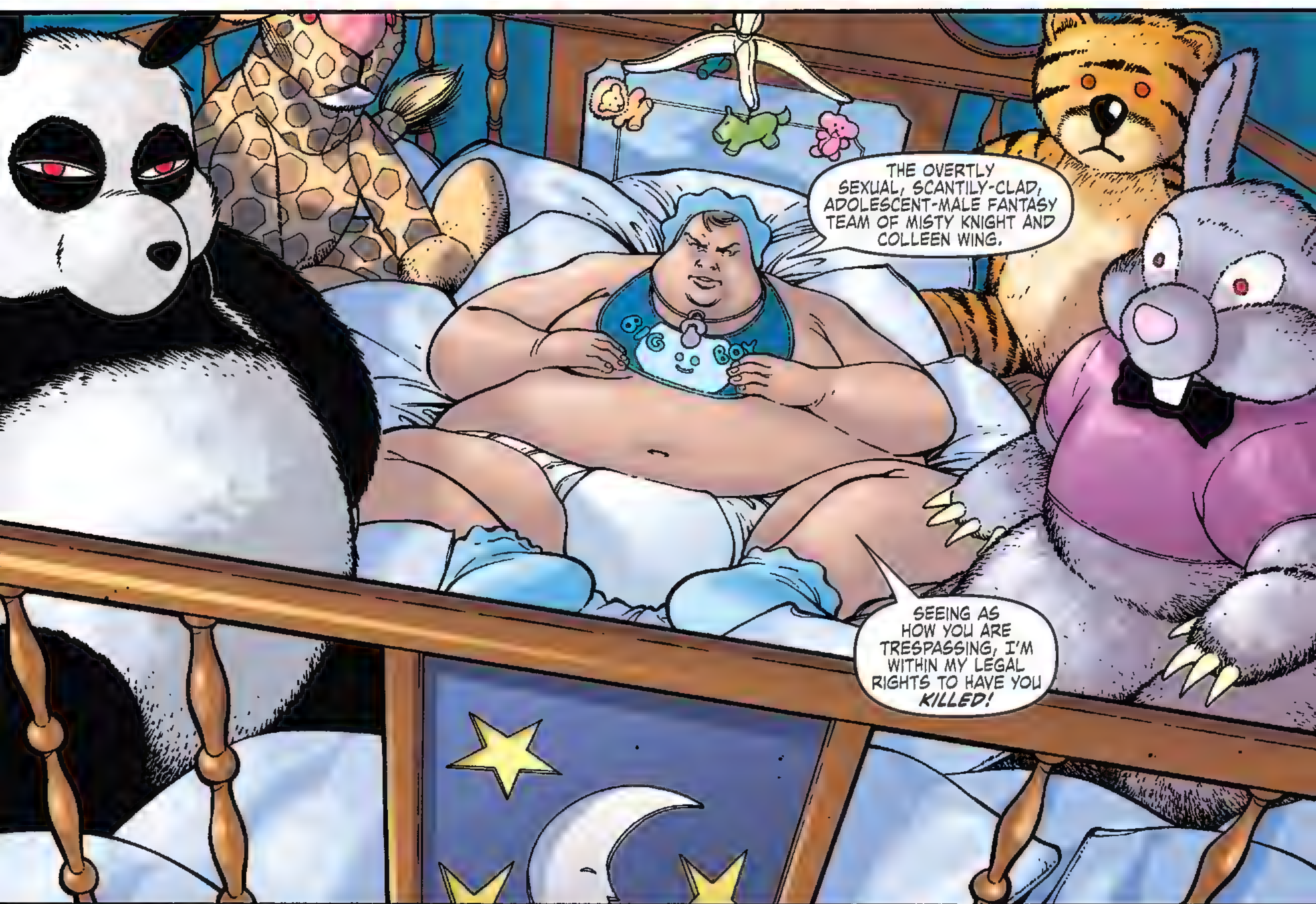
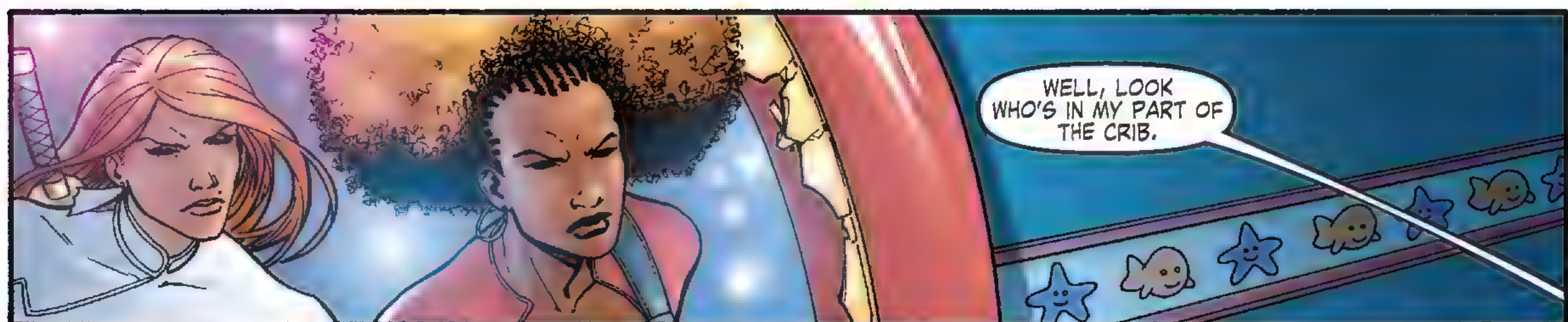
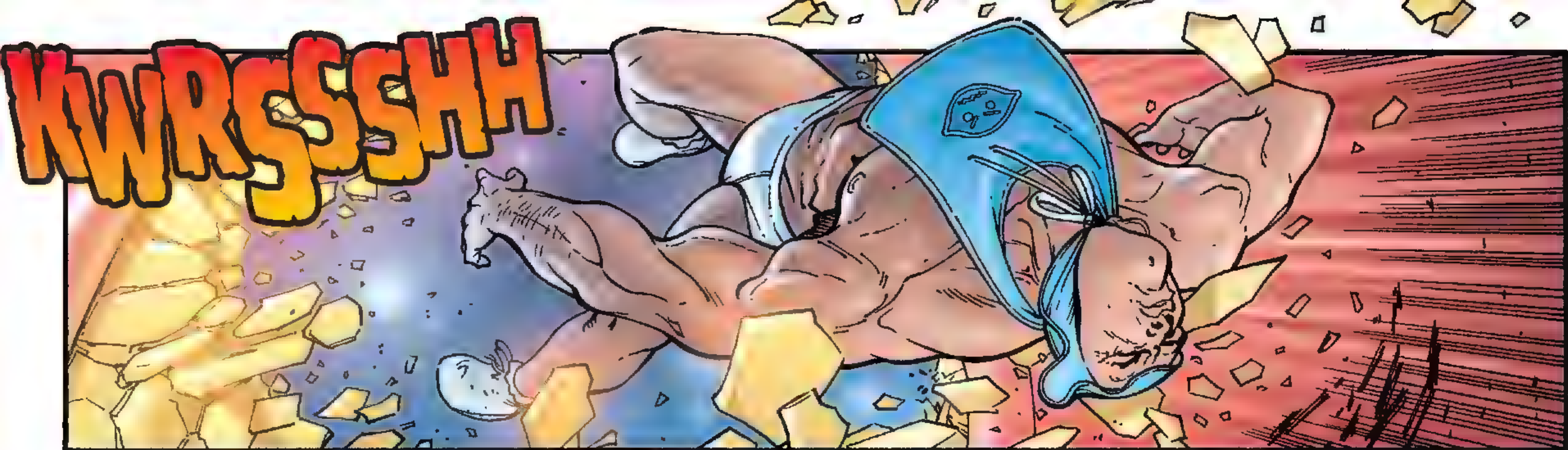
THIS
ISN'T A PLACE
FOR YOU.

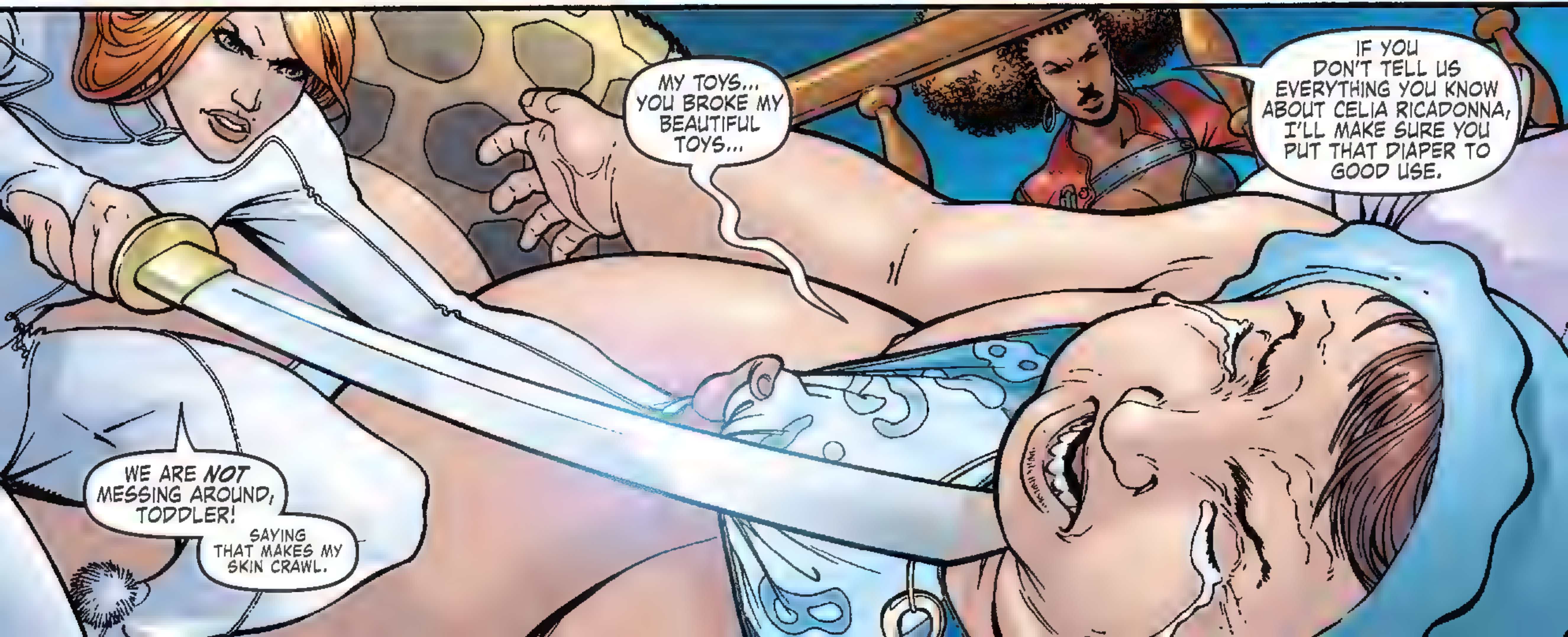
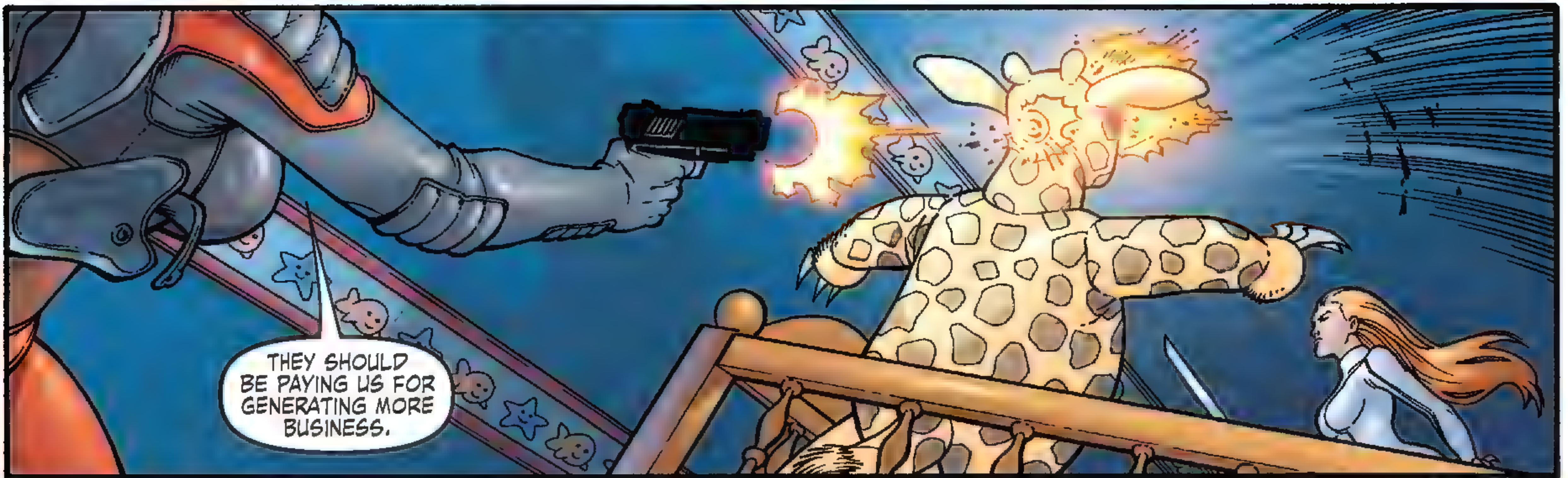
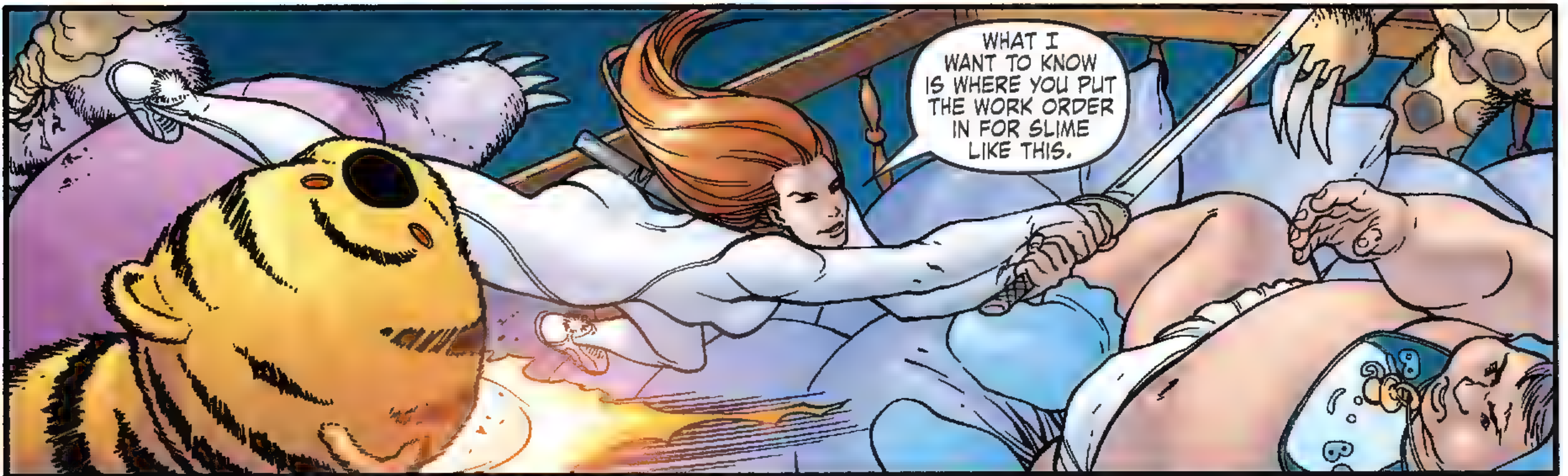
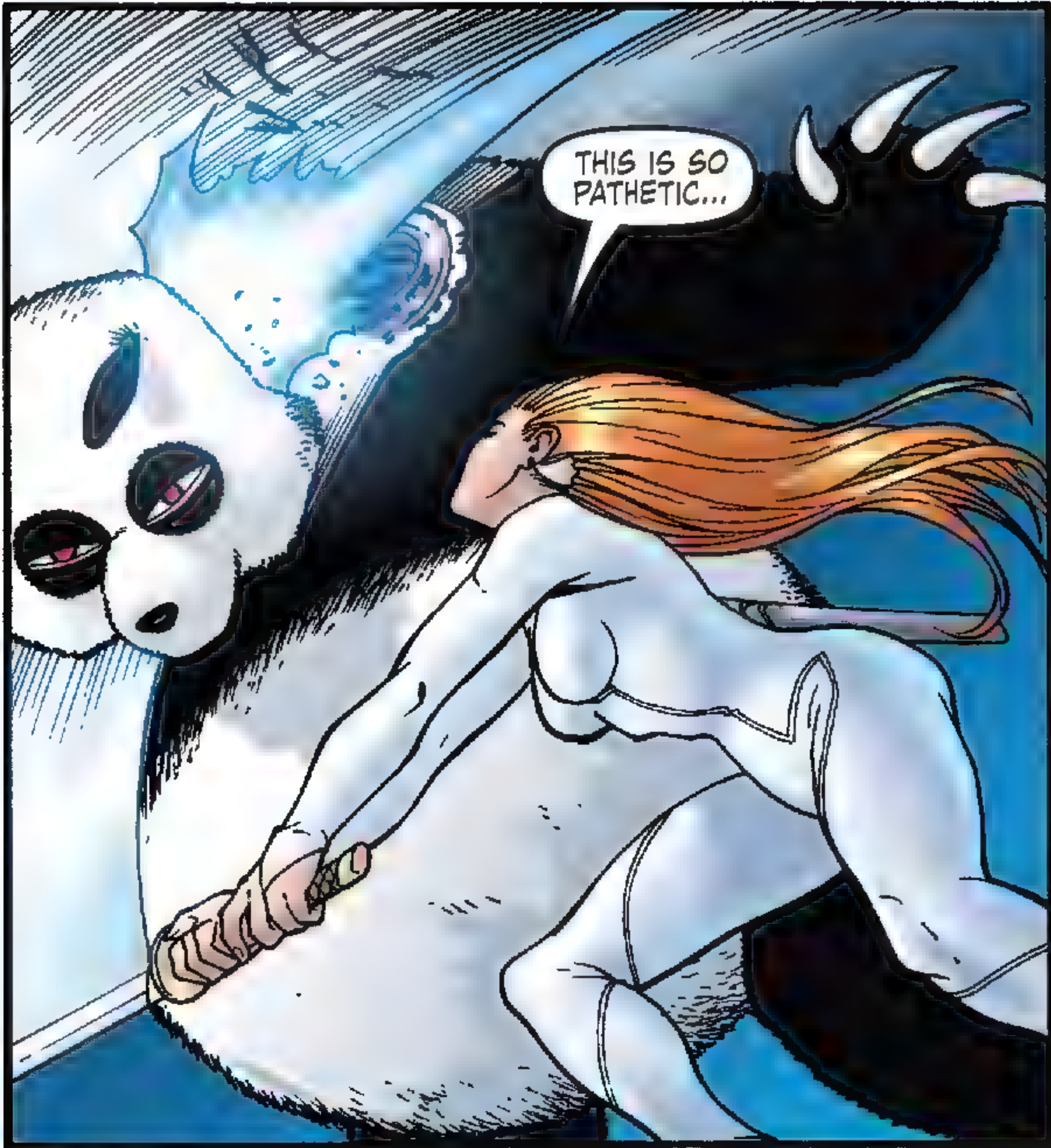
CLEARLY.

WE GOT
BUSINESS...WE
WANT TO SEE THE
TODDLER.

NO.

YOU DID
NOT JUST POINT
THAT NASTY THING
AT ME.







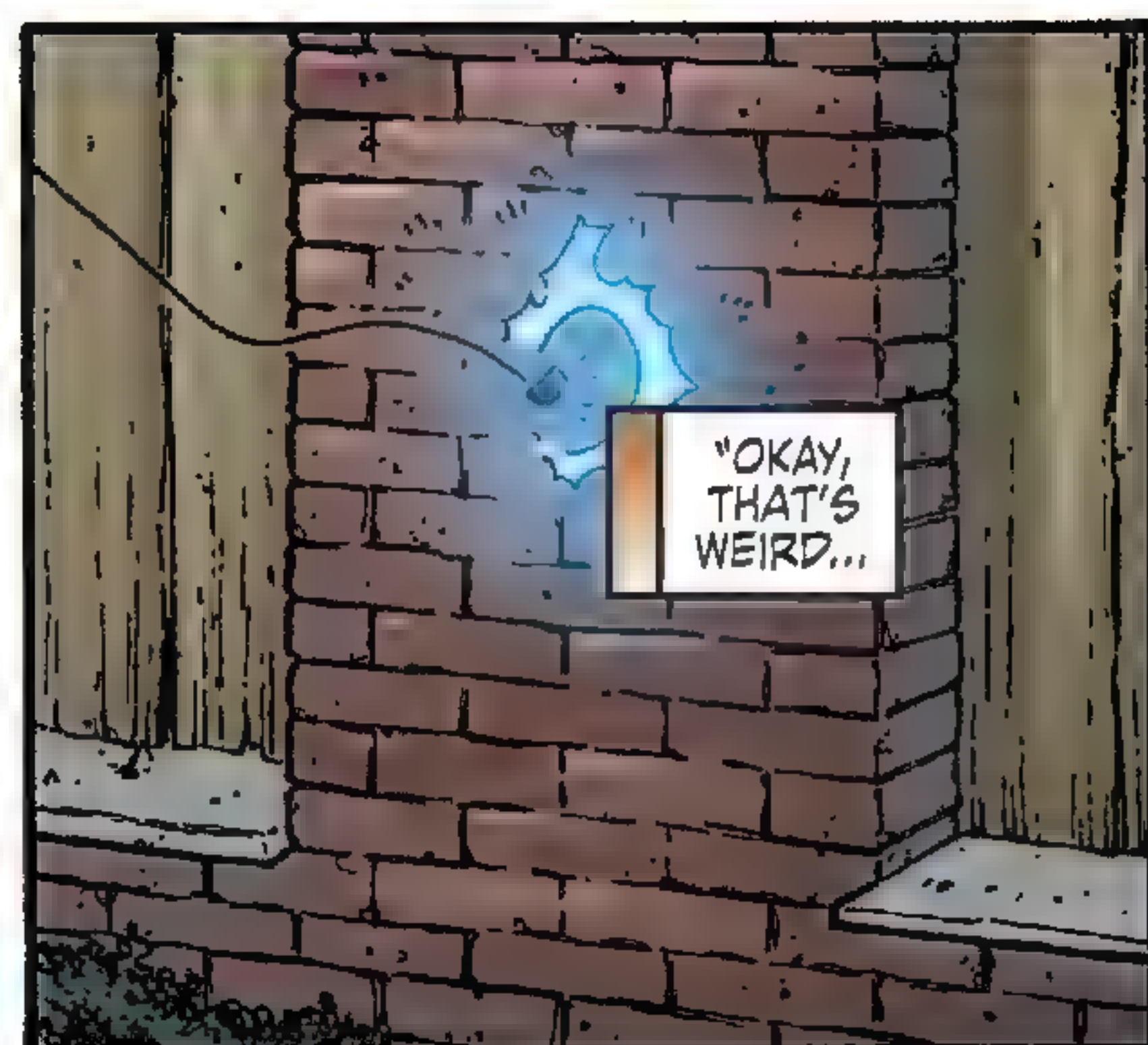
"I THINK I GOT
SOMETHING..."



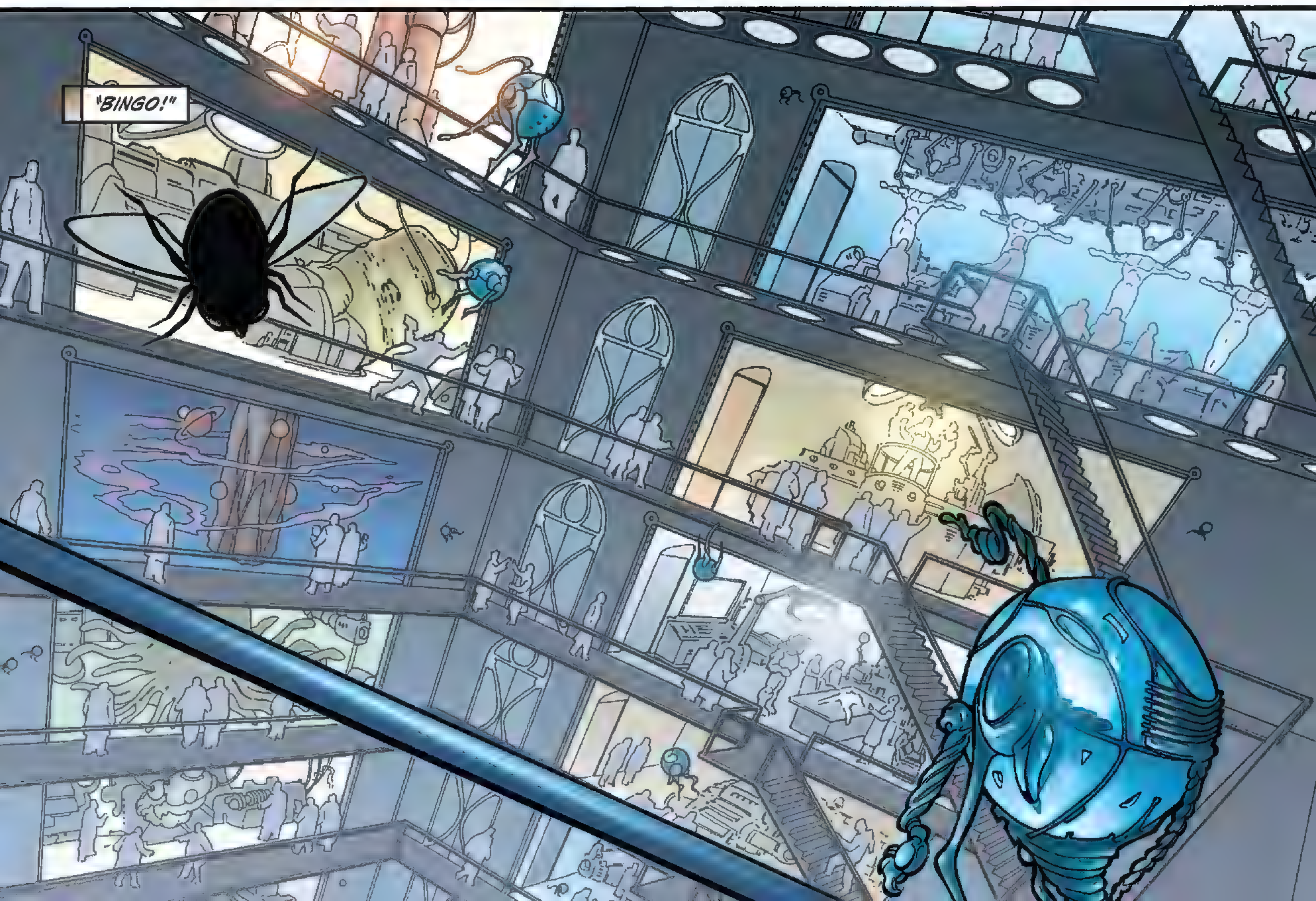
"LOOKS LIKE POTTER'S
FIELD ON HART
ISLAND... SOME INMATES
FROM RYKER'S; DIGGING
GRAVES... MAY NOT BE
ANYTHING AFTER ALL..."



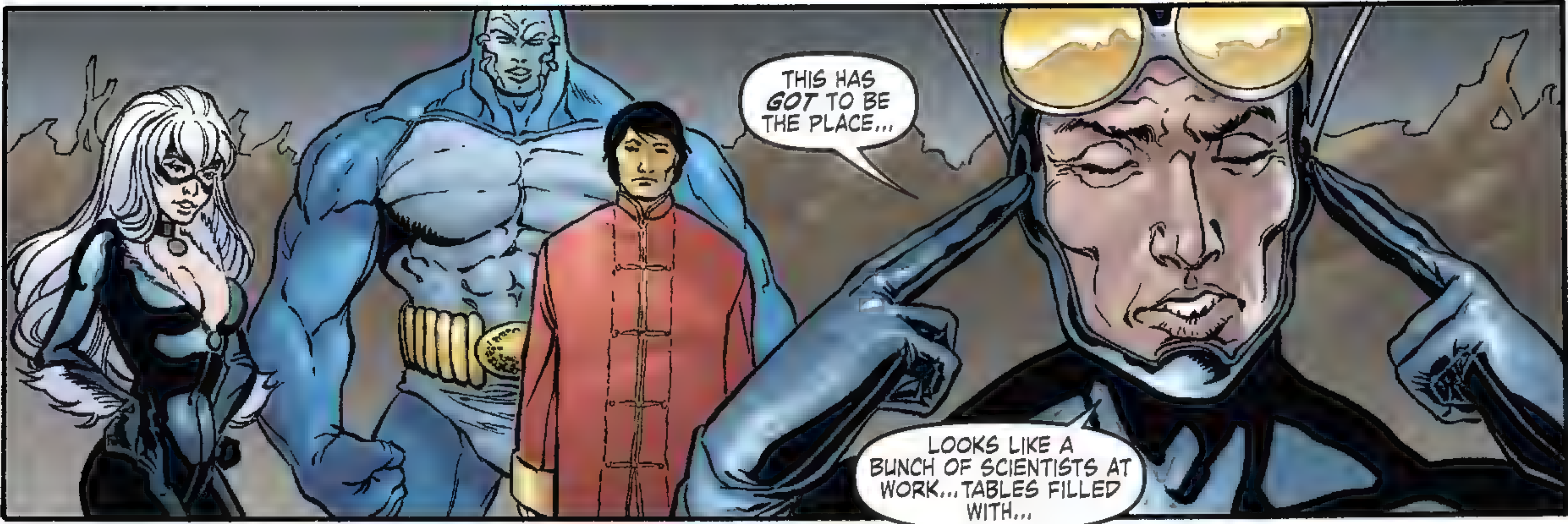
"WAIT A MINUTE...
MY FRIEND SENSES
SOMETHING
ERRONEOUS..."



"OKAY,
THAT'S
WEIRD..."

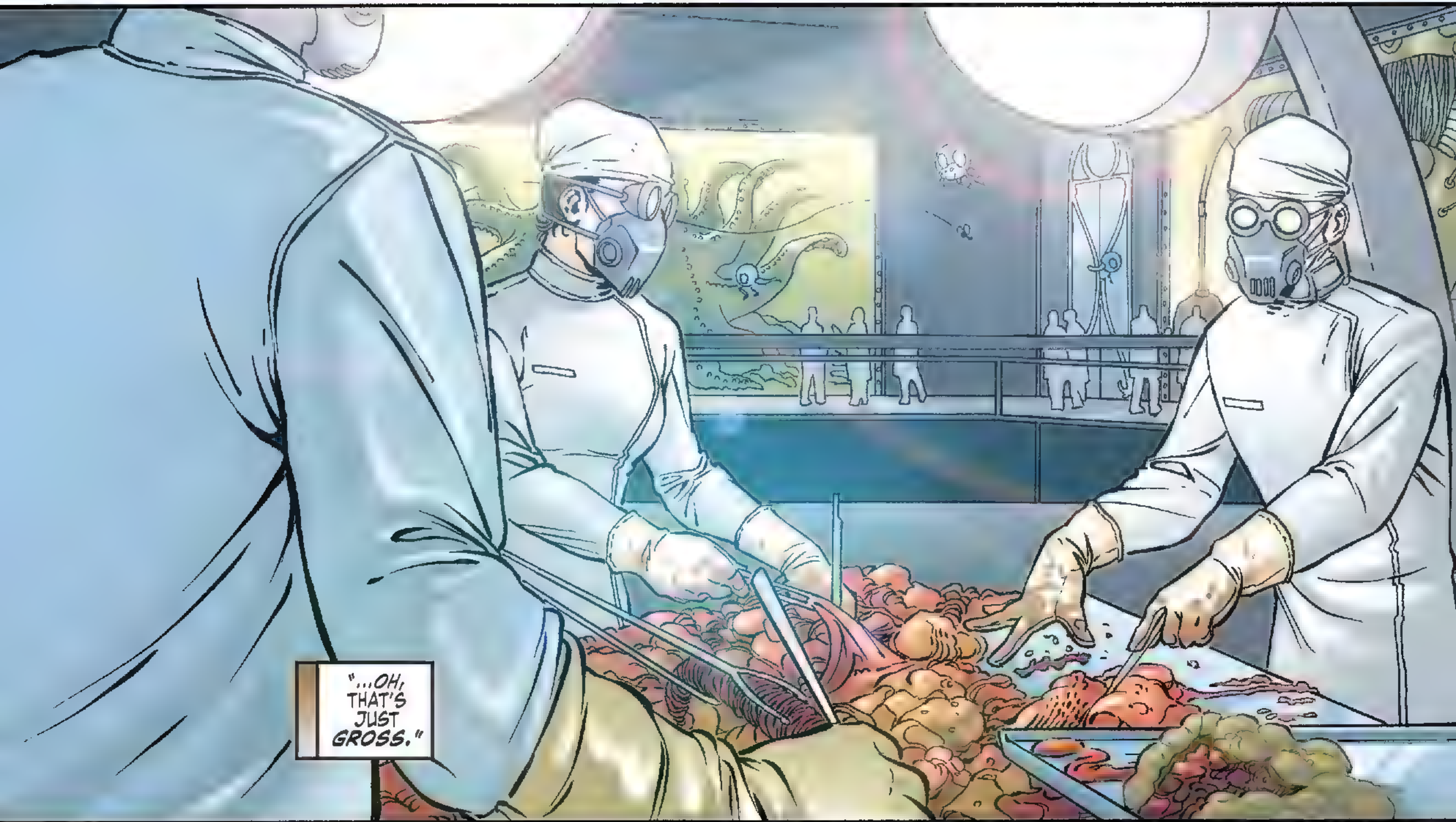


"BINGO!"

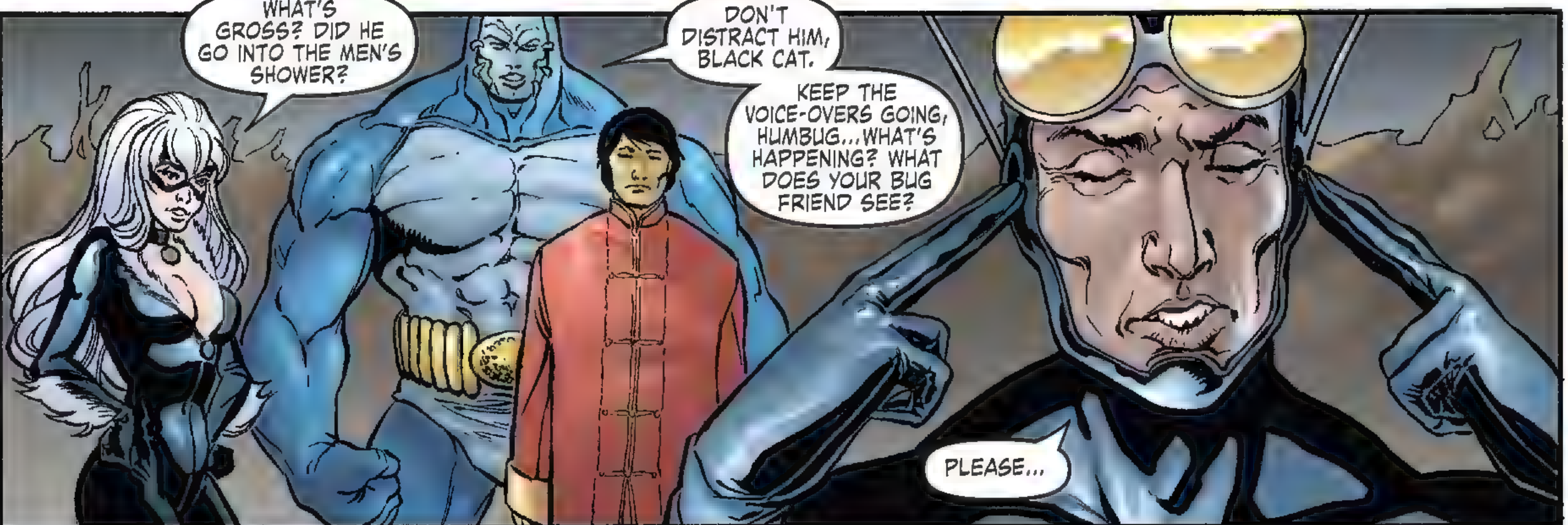


THIS HAS
GOT TO BE
THE PLACE...

LOOKS LIKE A
BUNCH OF SCIENTISTS AT
WORK... TABLES FILLED
WITH...



"...OH,
THAT'S
JUST
GROSS."

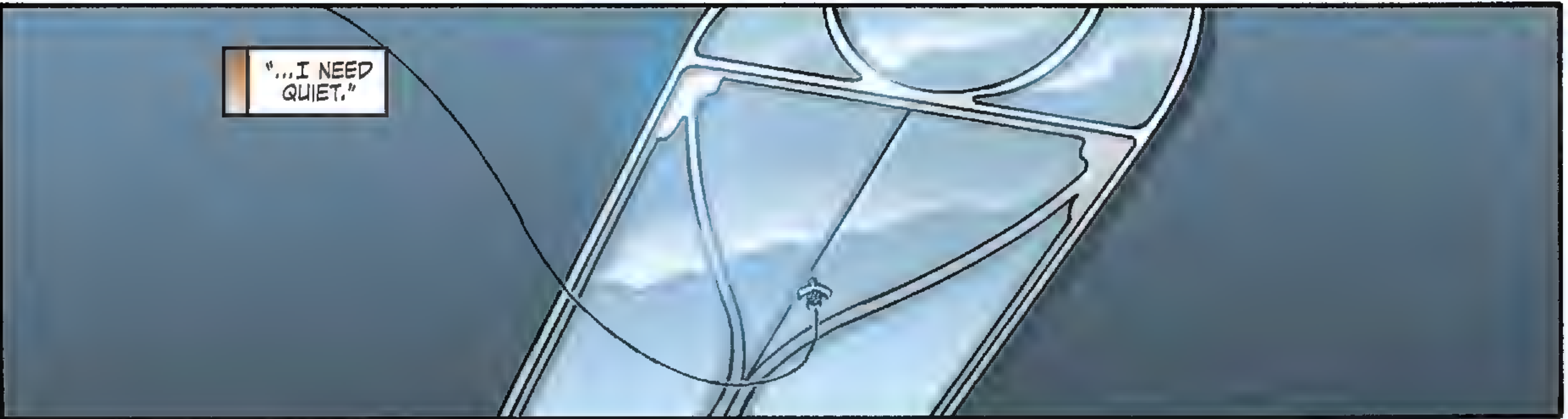


WHAT'S
GROSS? DID HE
GO INTO THE MEN'S
SHOWER?

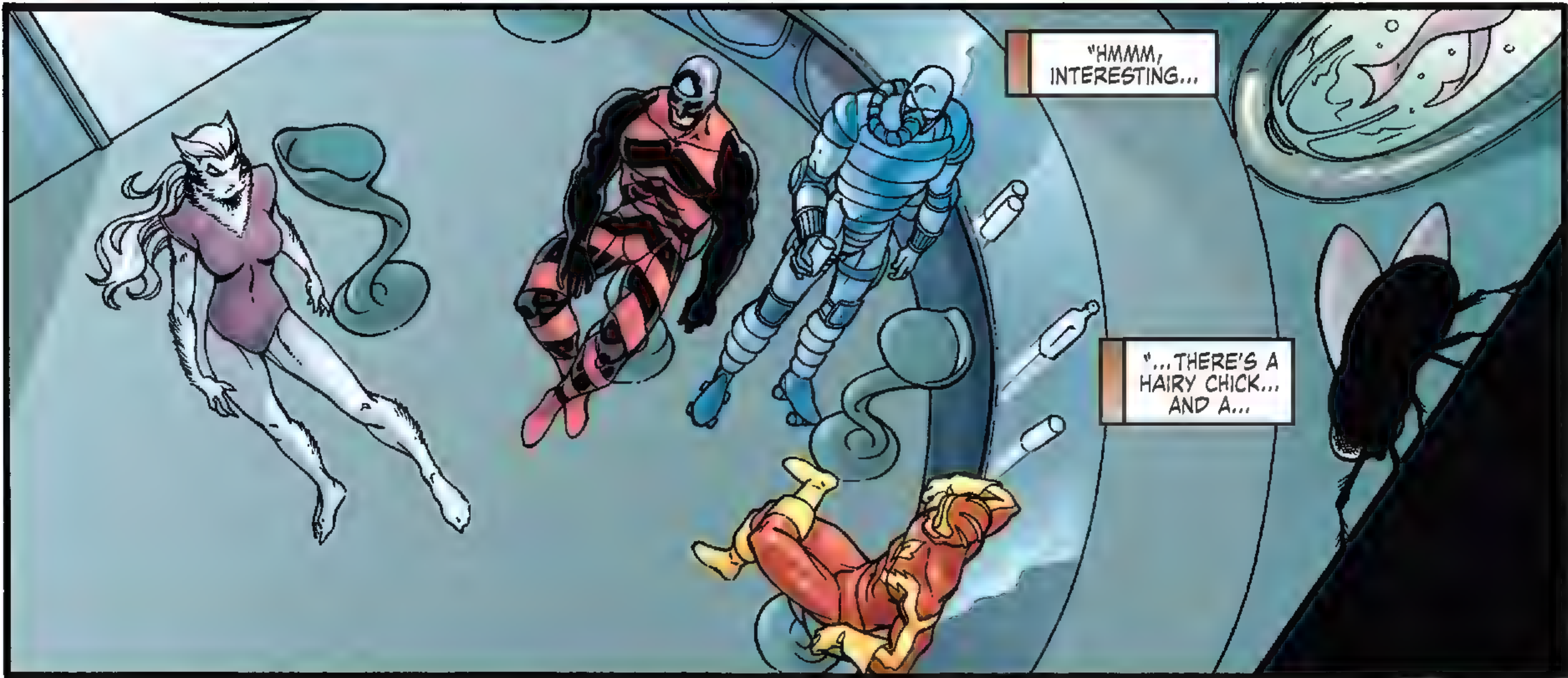
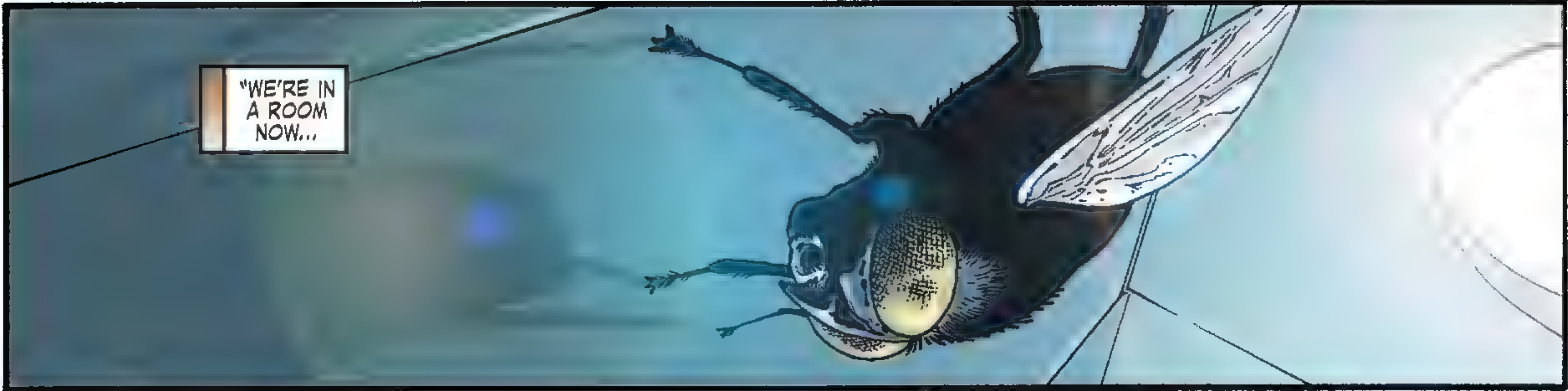
DON'T
DISTRACT HIM,
BLACK CAT.

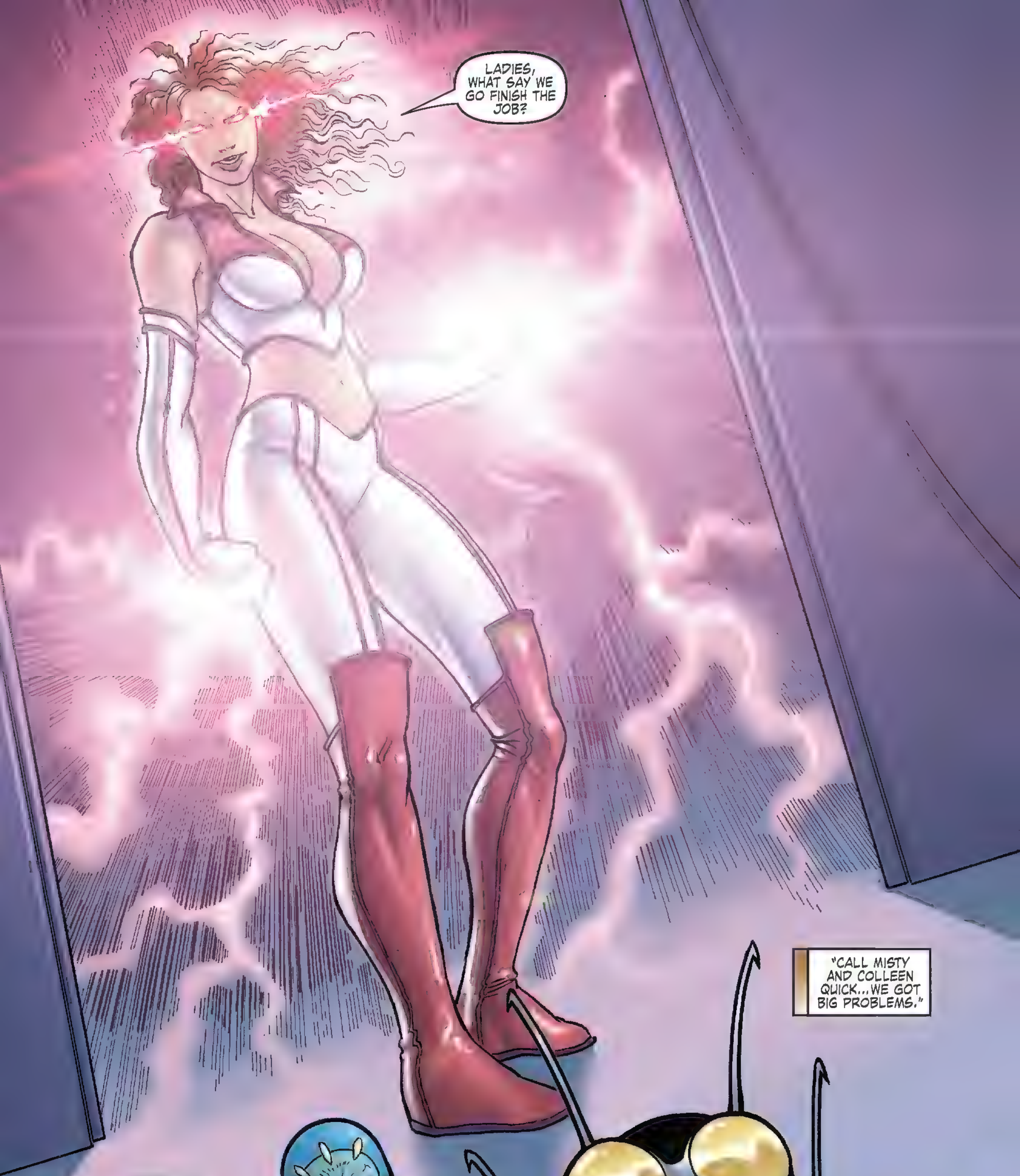
KEEP THE
VOICE-OVERS GOING,
HUMBUG... WHAT'S
HAPPENING? WHAT
DOES YOUR BUG
FRIEND SEE?

PLEASE...



"...I NEED
QUIET."





LADIES,
WHAT SAY WE
GO FINISH THE
JOB?

"CALL MISTY
AND COLLEEN
QUICK... WE GOT
BIG PROBLEMS."



RICADONNA'S
GONE FROM GLAM
MAFIA QUEEN TO
SUPER-POWERED
FREAK.



PALMIOTTI
GRAY
PORTELA
PALLOT
ANDERSON

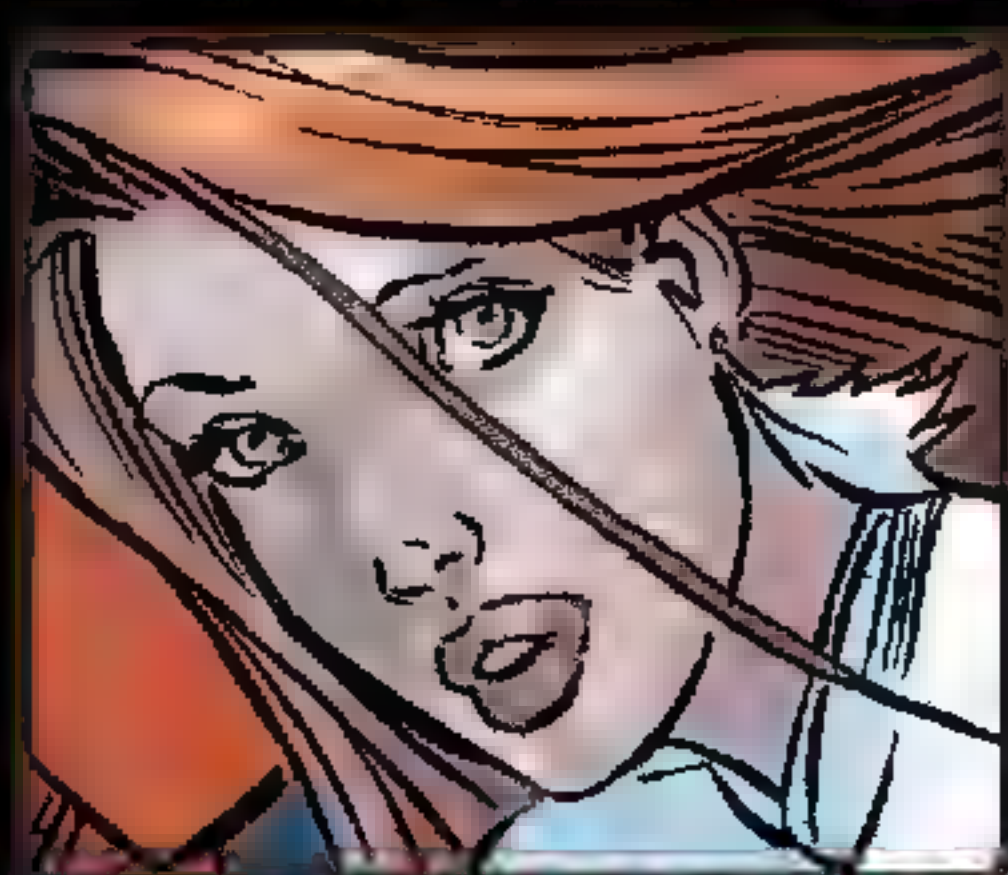
HEROES FOR HIRE



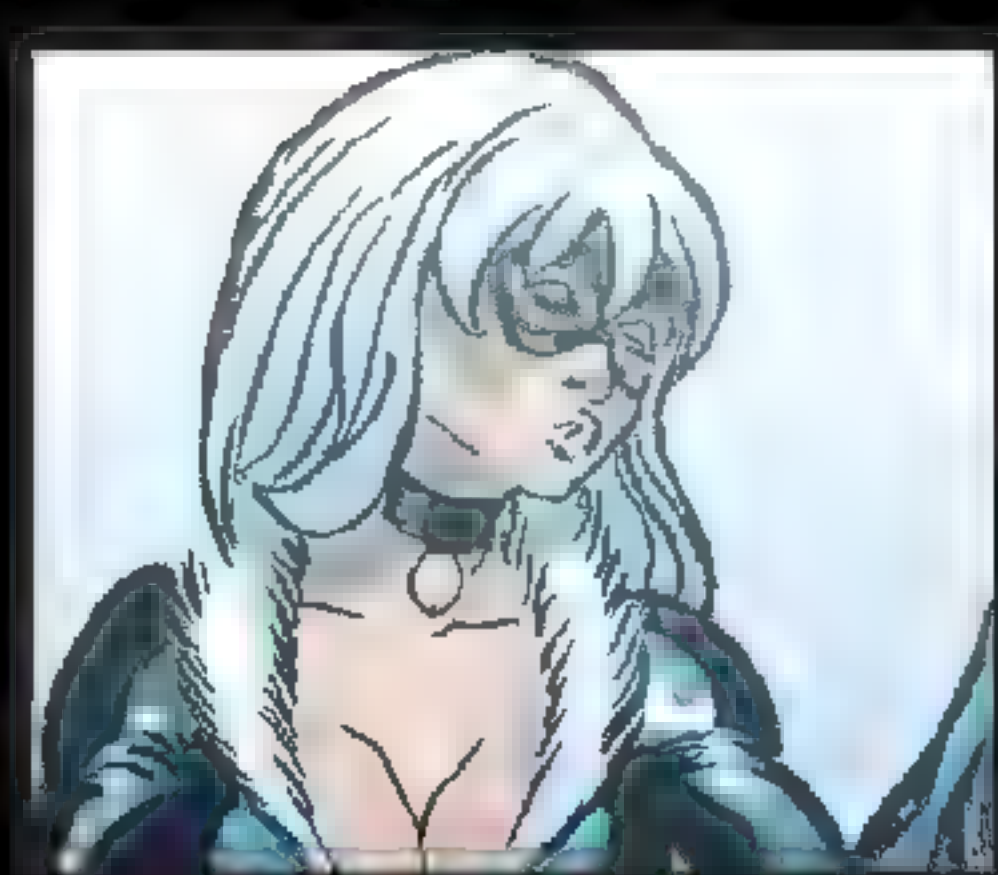
HEROES FOR HIRE



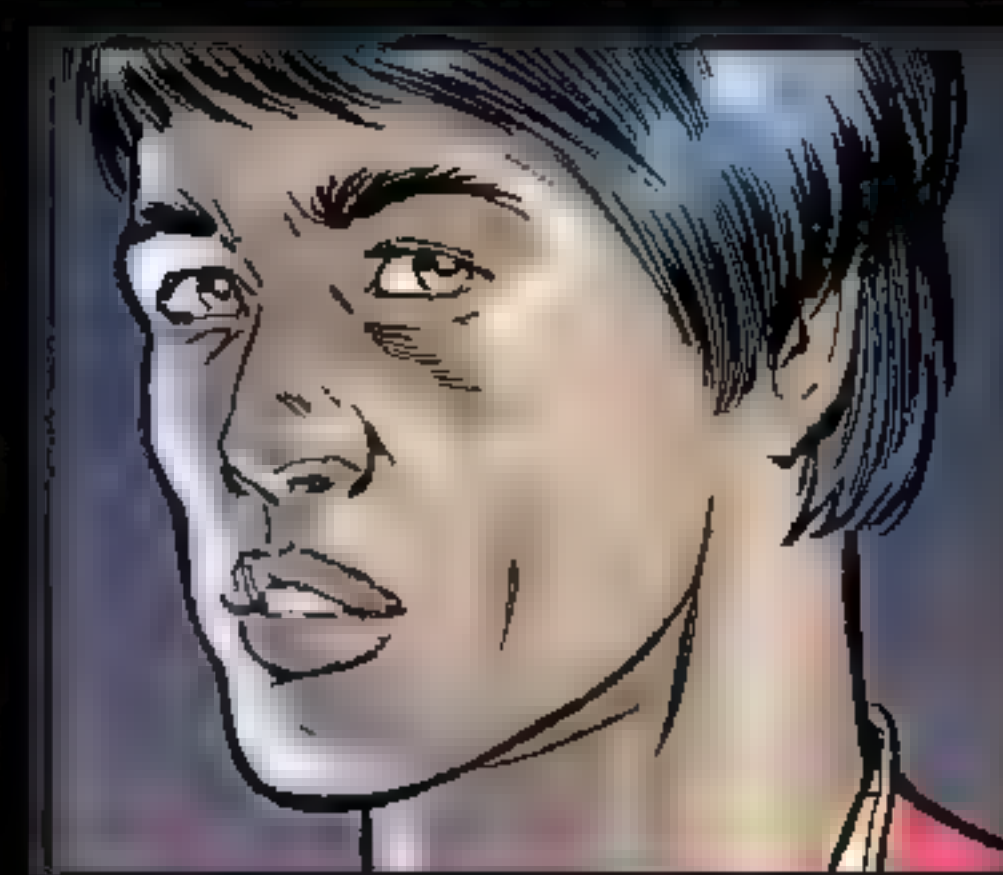
MISTY KNIGHT



COLLEEN WING



BLACK CAT



**SHANG-CHI,
MASTER OF
KUNG FU**



TARANTULA



HUMBUG



ORKA



PALADIN

Having thrown Paladin off the team for selling them out, Misty and the gang have turned their attention towards an evil organization know simply as The Corporation, which has been using a Skrull Organ Generator to produce parts that are then implanted into super-villains, allowing them to shape-shift at will.

A handful of these villains were able to break Ricadonna (a fallen-from-grace Mafia queen and heated enemy of Misty Knight) out of jail. While her minions were out making the Heroes For Hire's lives hell on earth (the most destructive result being the death of Tarantula's father), Ricadonna was busy having Skrull organs implanted inside her...

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THERE
CAN'T BE SO MUCH
AS A SCRATCH ON THIS
CAR OR IRON MAN'LL
KILL US.

THINK
I'M GETTING
AIRSICK.

THAT
INCLUDES PUKING,
HUMBUG!

WHY WE'RE IN A STARK
HOVER CAR OFF THE
COAST OF MANHATTAN:



WE BEAT UP THIS CHICK
NAMED RICADONNA ONE
TIME. SHE WENT TO JAIL.

THEN THE #@\$% HIRED LOW-
RENT BAD GUYS (KINGSIZE,
FEROCIA, FLAME, SOME
NEW BLUE STREAK GUY)
TO BUST HER OUT.

ONCE FREE, SHE GOT
HERSELF IMPLANTED
WITH SKRULL ORGANS.

(WHICH IS TOTALLY
#@\$%ED UP, BY THE WAY.)

SKRULLS'RE
SHAPE-SHIFTING
ALIENS.

YOU PUT A SKRULL
KIDNEY (OR WHATEVER)
IN A VILLAIN... PRESTO,
SHAPE-SHIFTING VILLAIN.

SO WE'RE GOING TO THE
EVIL TRANSPLANT LAB ON
HART ISLAND TO BEAT
THE CRAP OUT OF
RICADONNA AND BLOW UP
THE ORGAN GENERATOR.

SHOULD BE FUN.

OKAY, BLACK CAT, YOU'RE
THE MASTER THIEF. YOU AND
HUMBUG FIND THE SKRULL
ORGAN GENERATOR.

HUMBUG'S
WITH ME *AND* I'M
IN CHARGE OF THE
GROSS STUFF?

ORKA, YOU'RE OUR MUSCLE, SO
WE EXPECT YOU TO KEEP WHATEVER
DEFENSES THEY HAVE OFF
OUR BACKS.

I'M
ALWAYS
WATCHING
YOUR BACK,
MISTY.

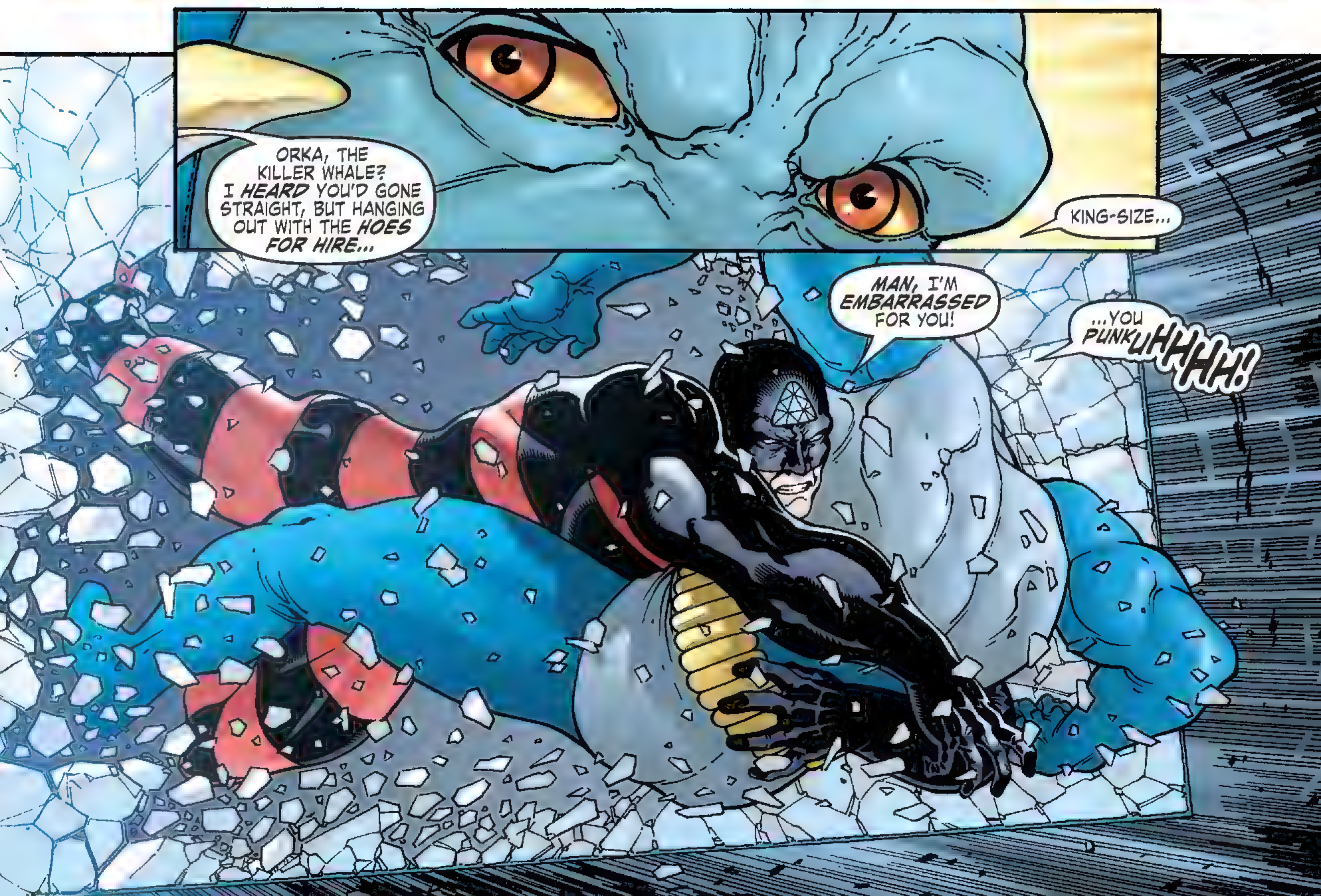
AND US?

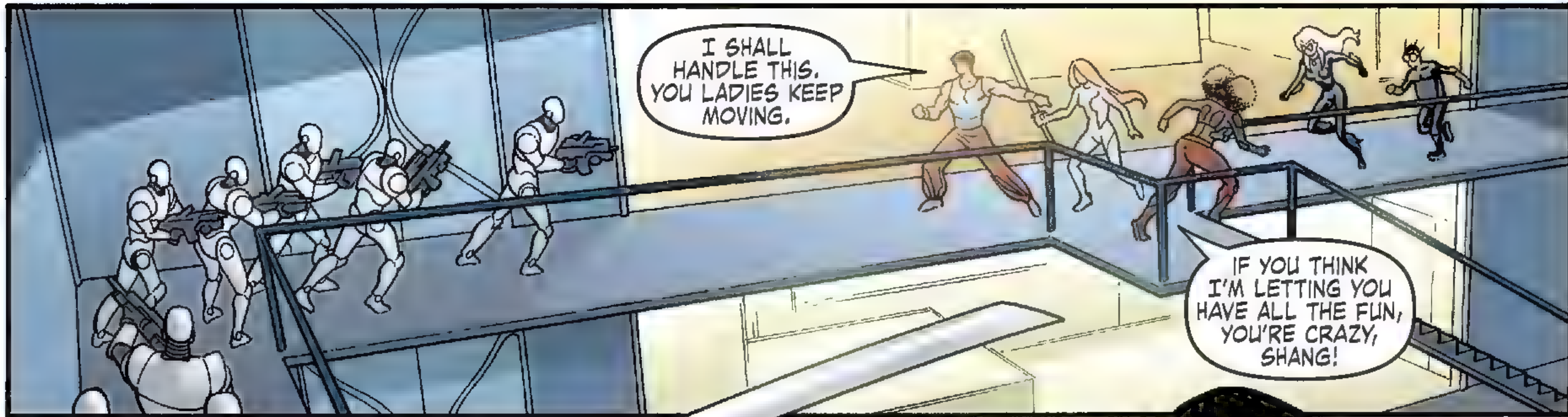
DO YOUR
THING...

...BUT
RICADONNA IS
MINE.

I DON'T
THINK SO...

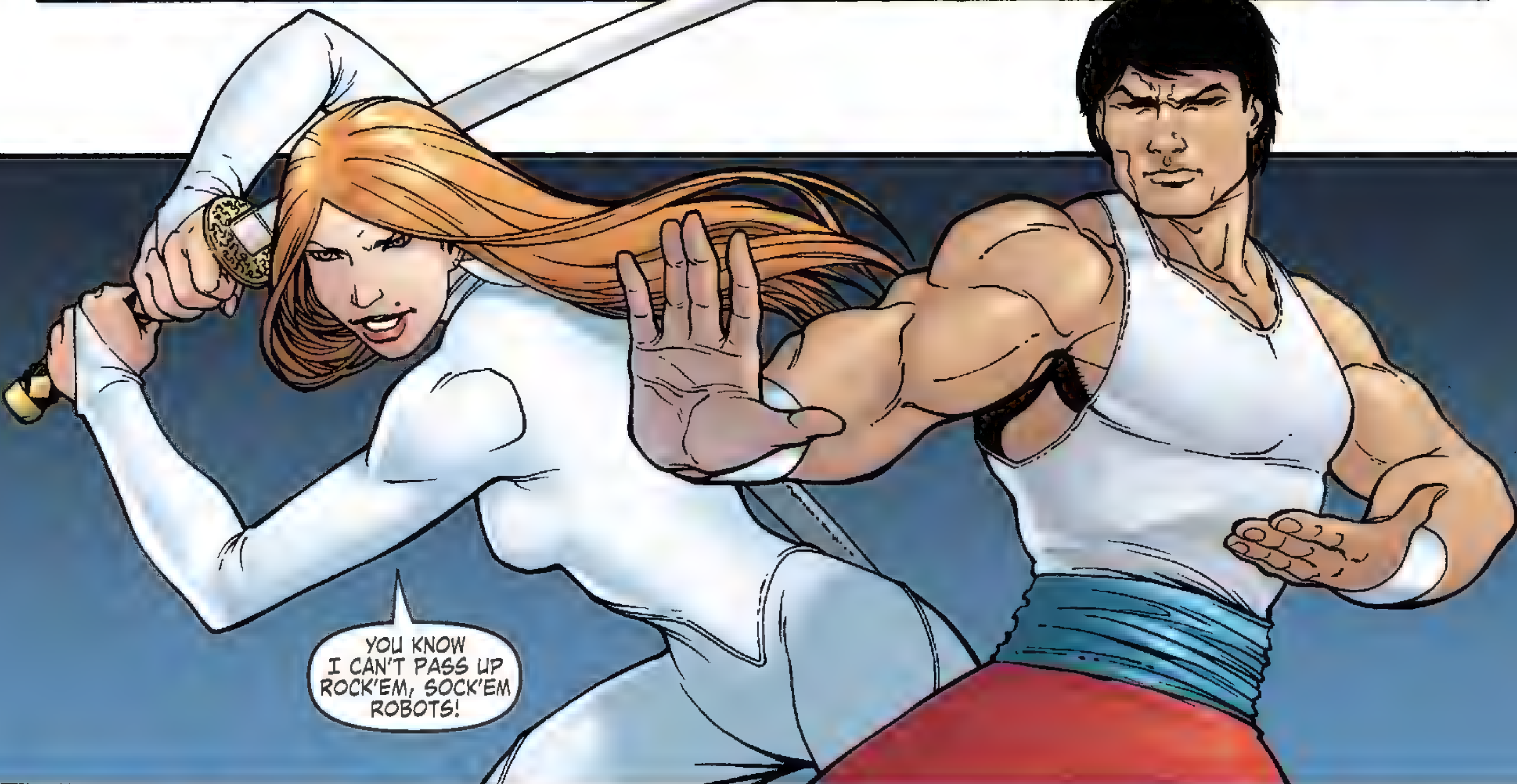




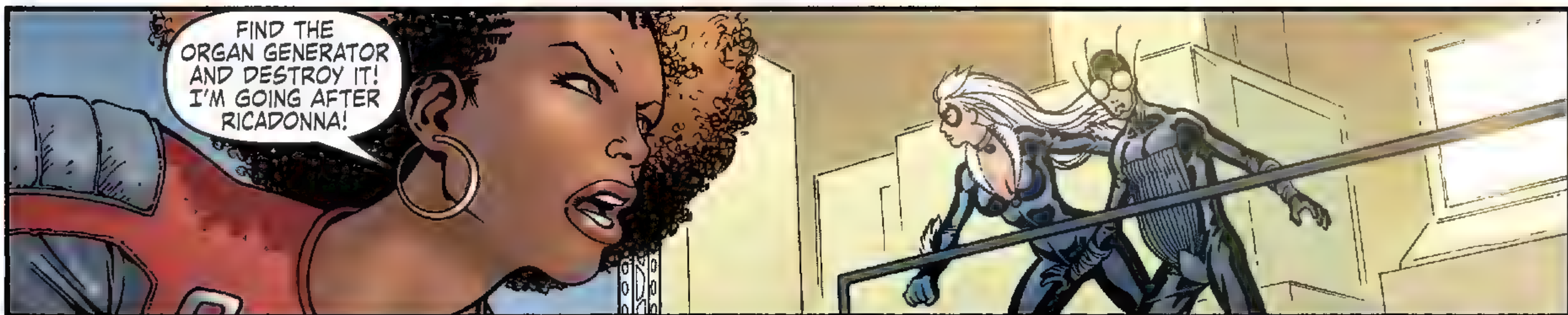


I SHALL
HANDLE THIS.
YOU LADIES KEEP
MOVING.

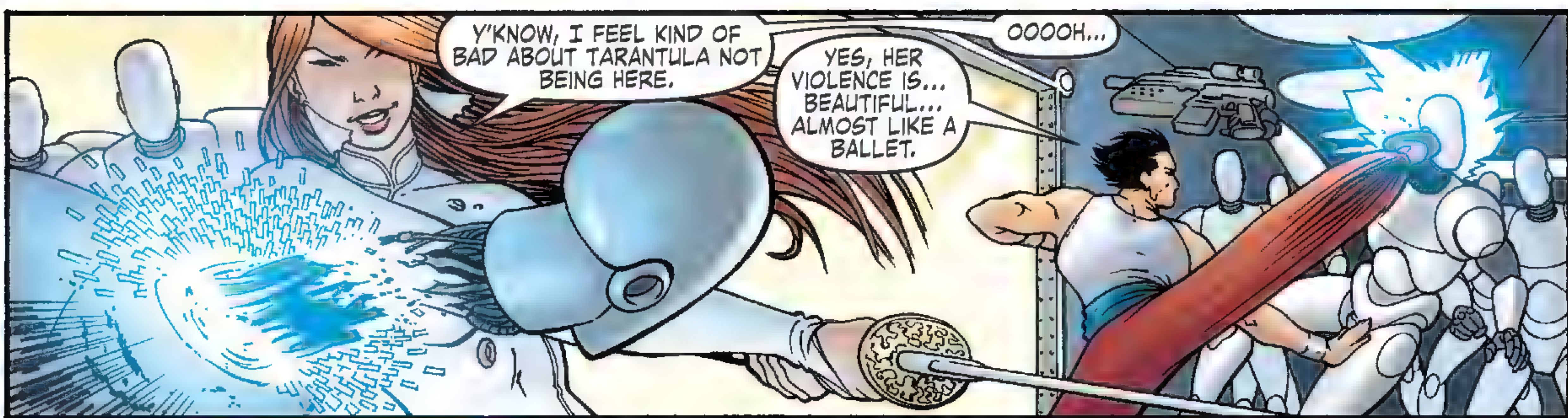
IF YOU THINK
I'M LETTING YOU
HAVE ALL THE FUN,
YOU'RE CRAZY,
SHANG!



YOU KNOW
I CAN'T PASS UP
ROCK'EM, SOCK'EM
ROBOTS!



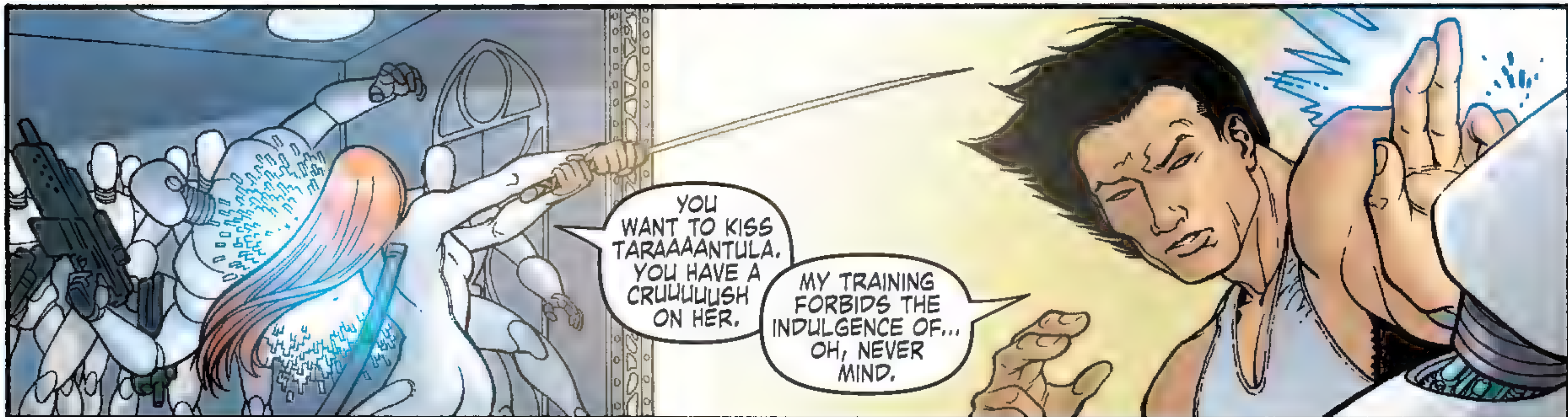
FIND THE
ORGAN GENERATOR
AND DESTROY IT!
I'M GOING AFTER
RICADONNA!



Y'KNOW, I FEEL KIND OF
BAD ABOUT TARANTULA NOT
BEING HERE.

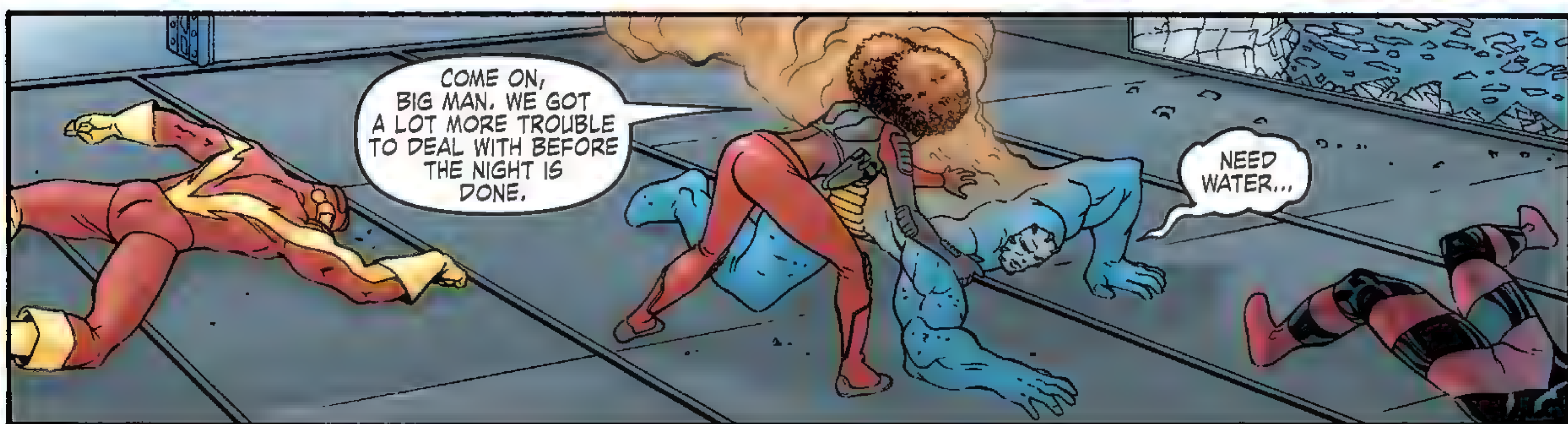
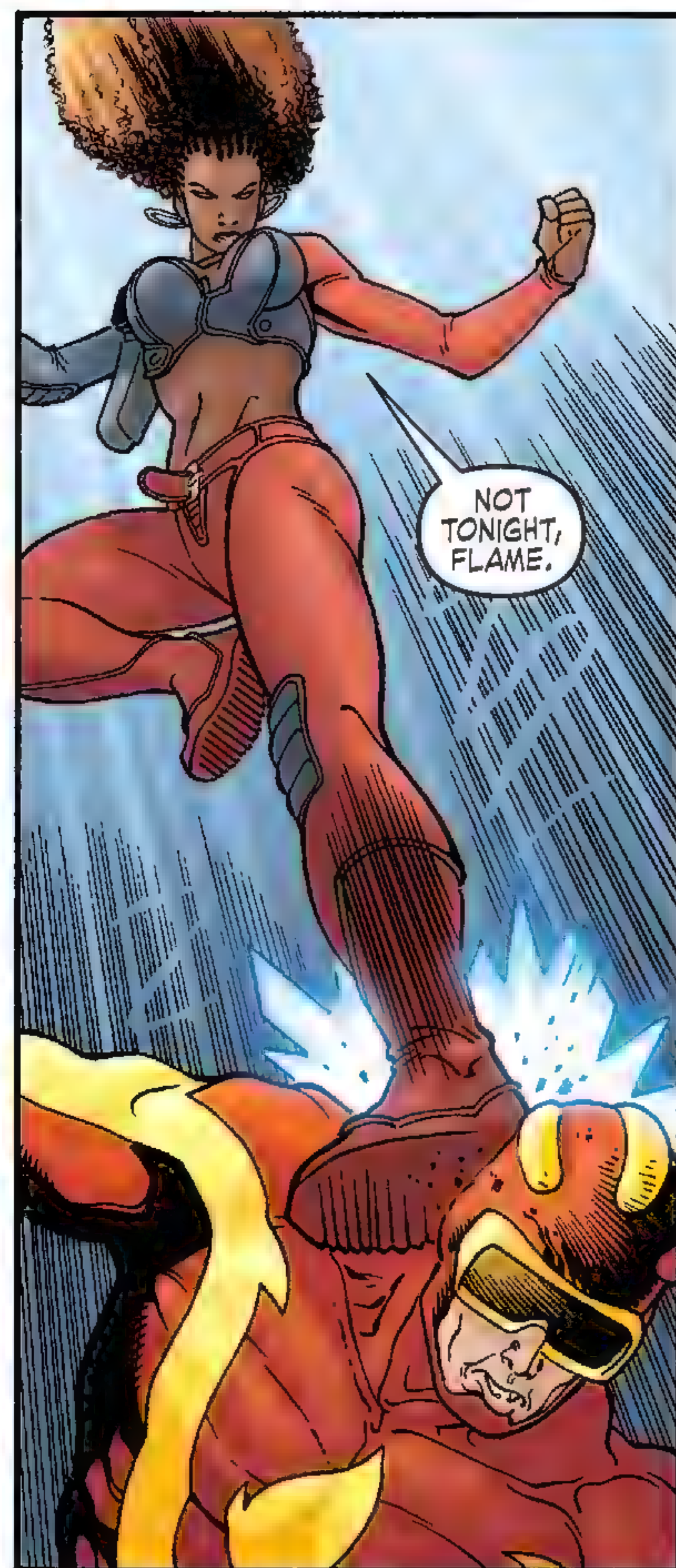
YES, HER
VIOLENCE IS...
BEAUTIFUL...
ALMOST LIKE A
BALLET.

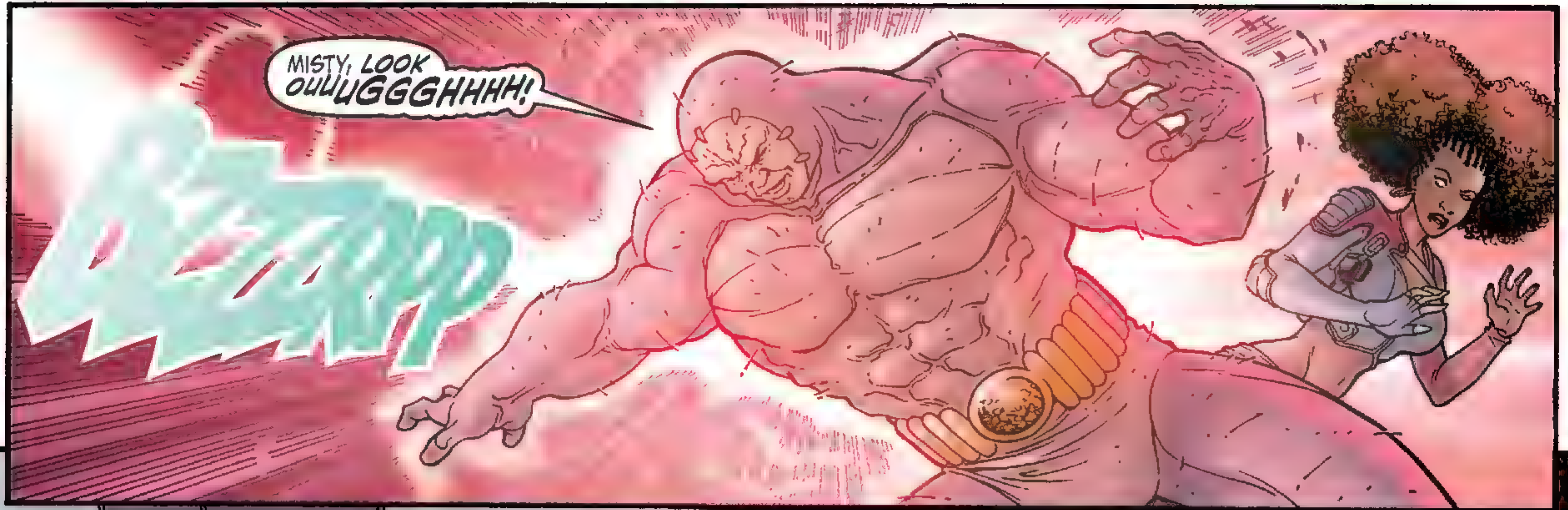
OOOOH...

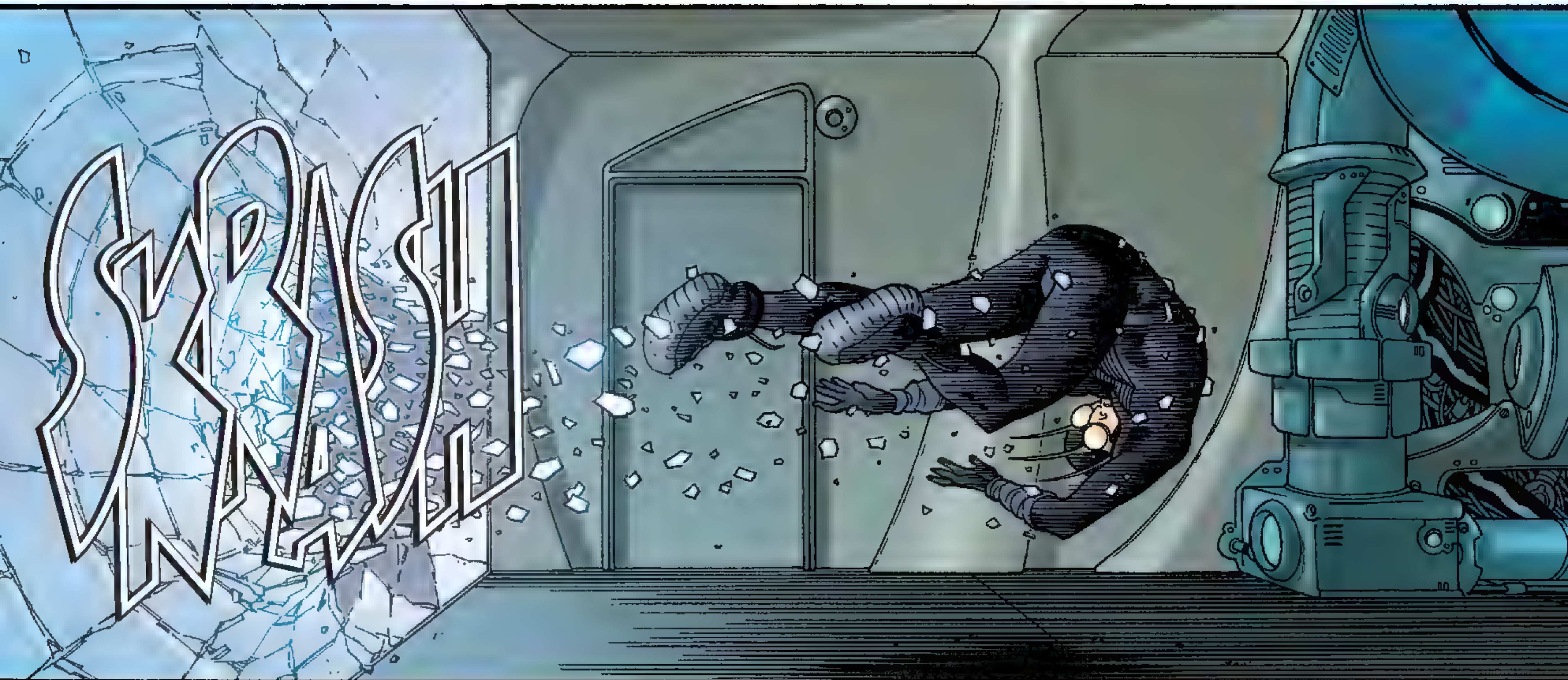
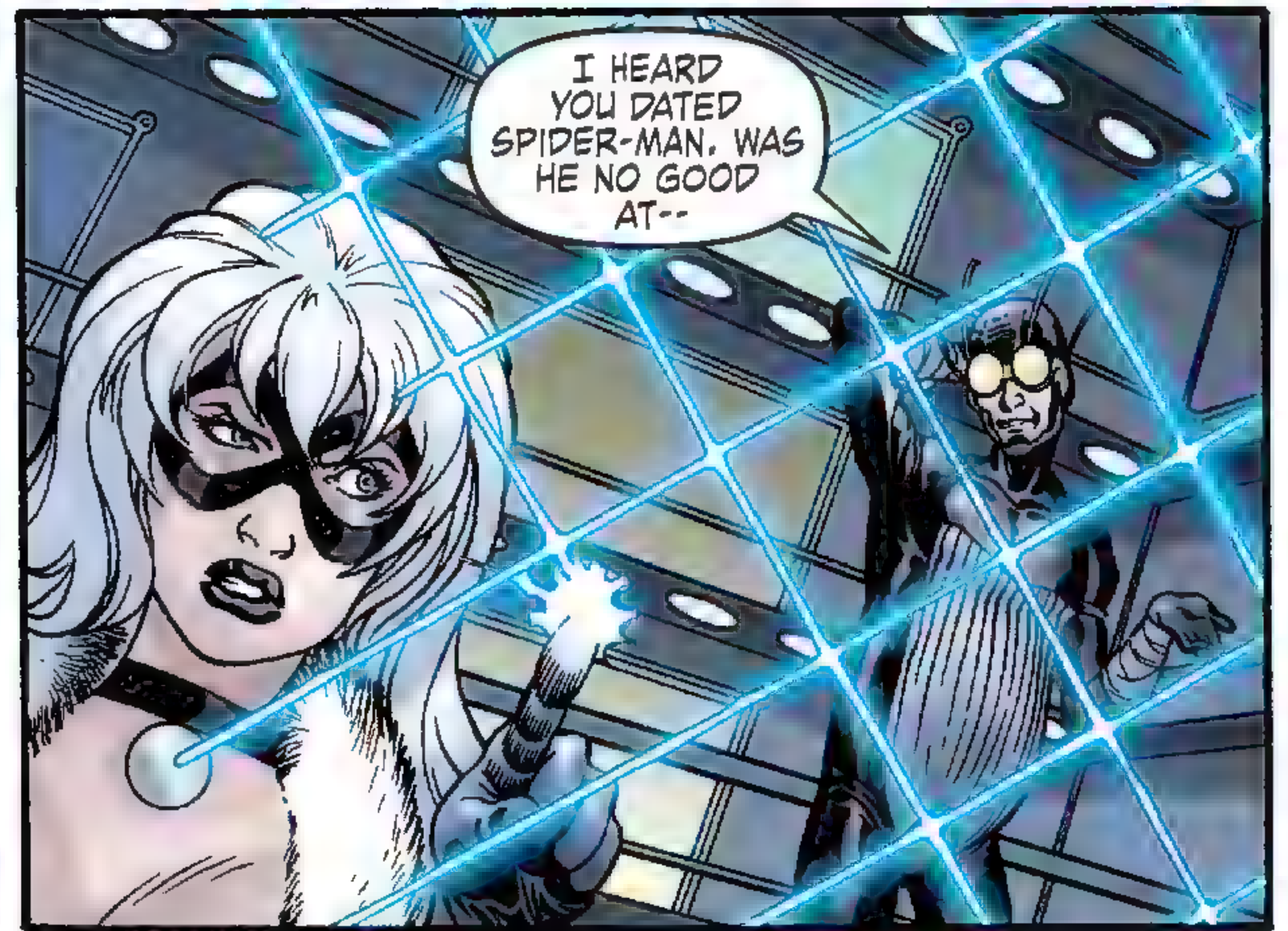
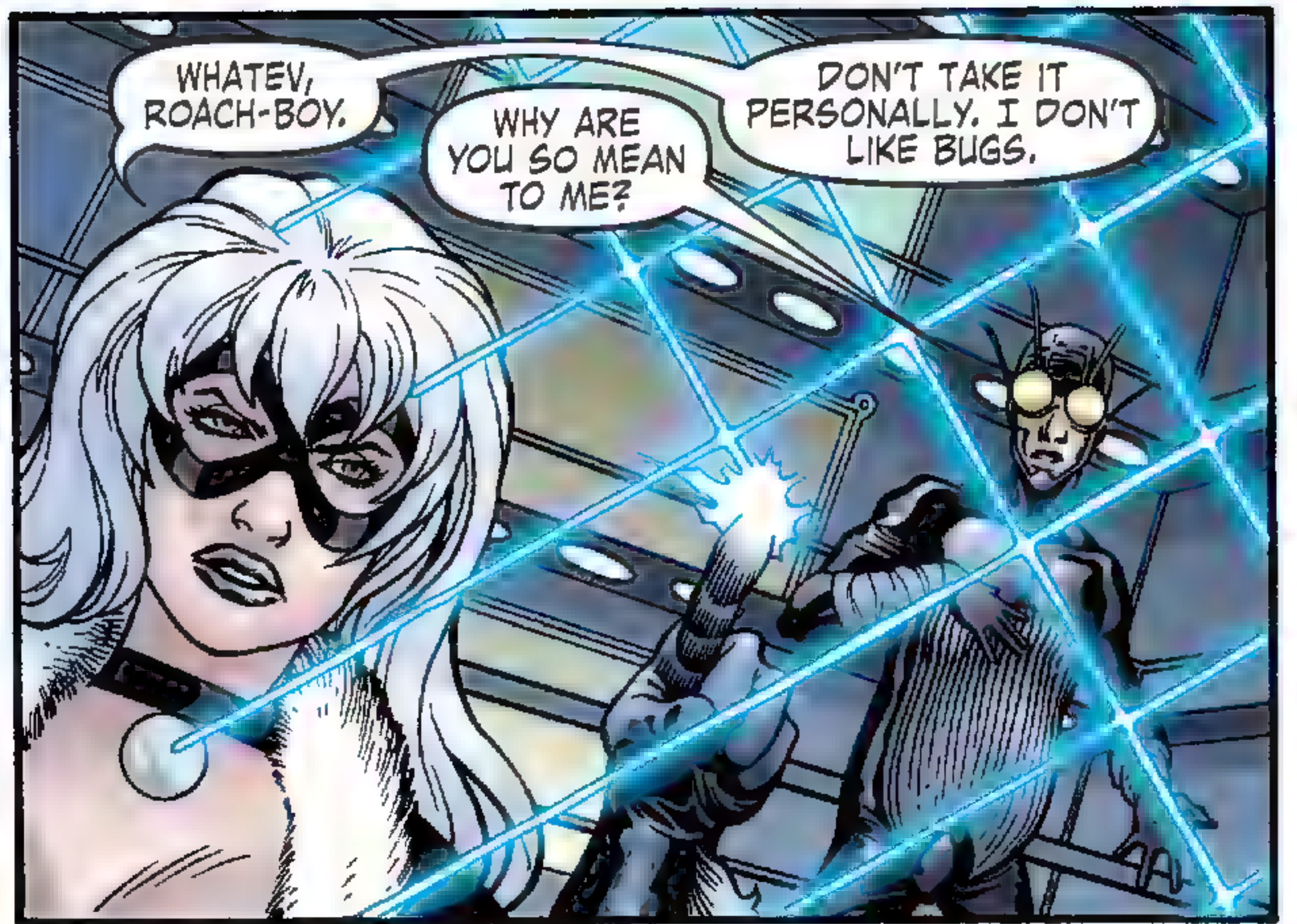


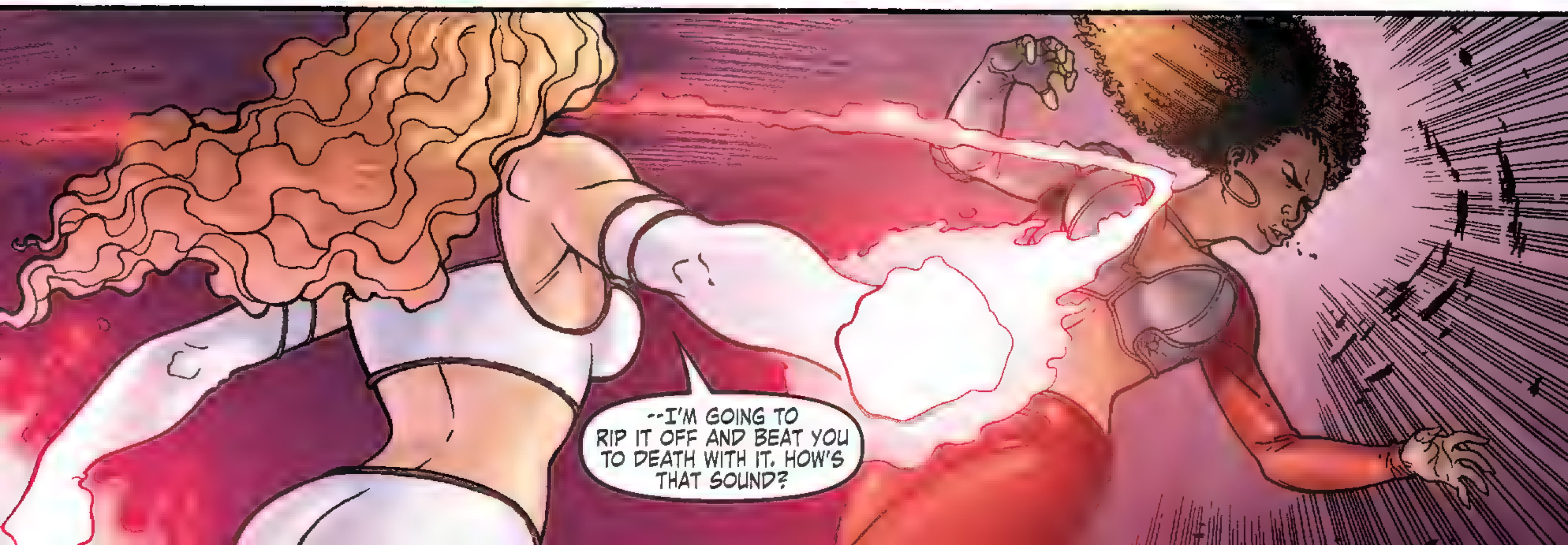
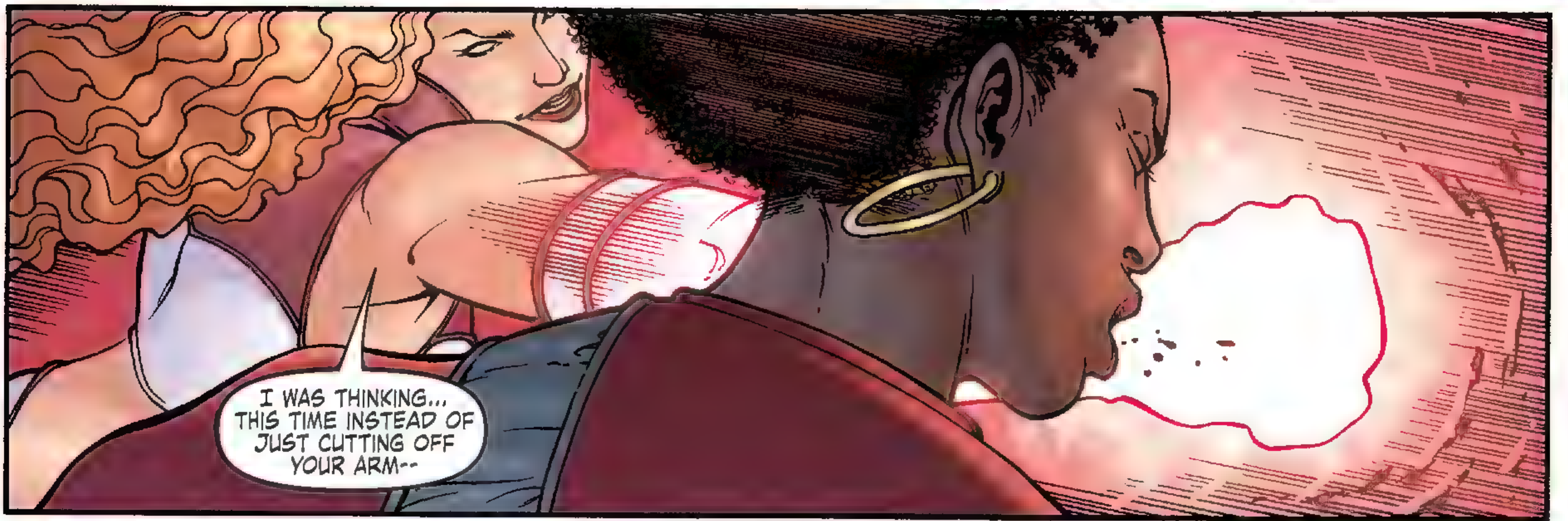
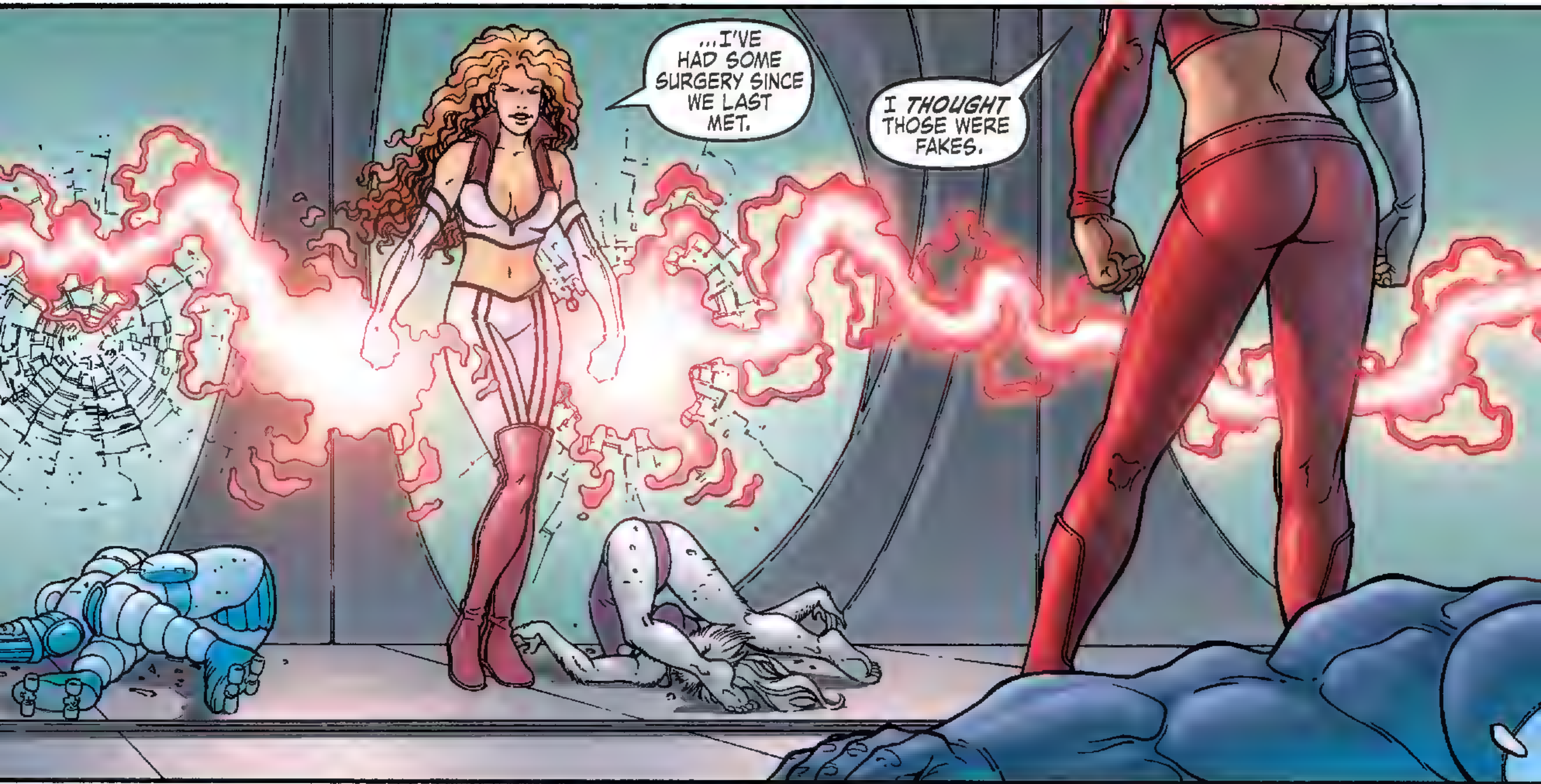
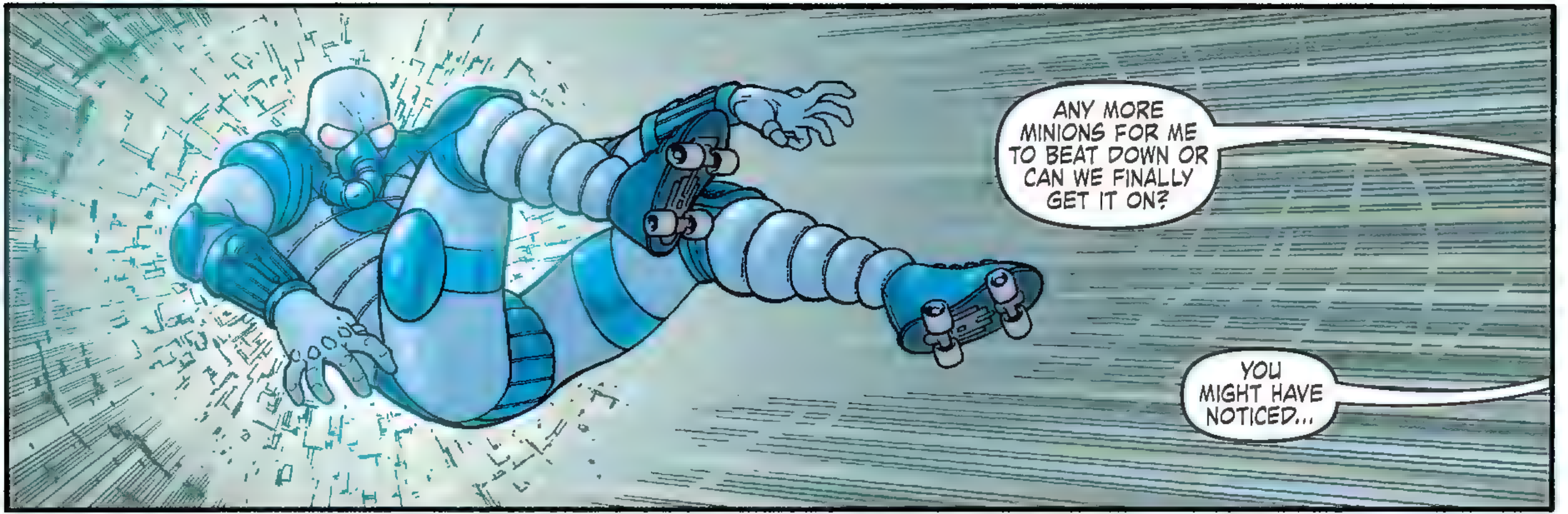
YOU
WANT TO KISS
TARAAAANTULA.
YOU HAVE A
CRUUUUUSH
ON HER.

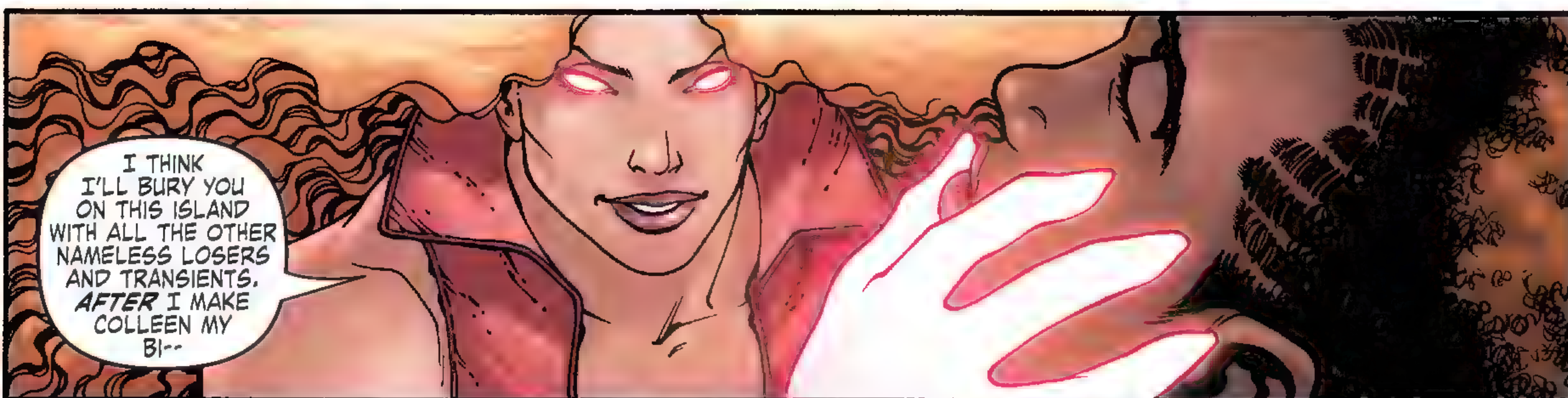
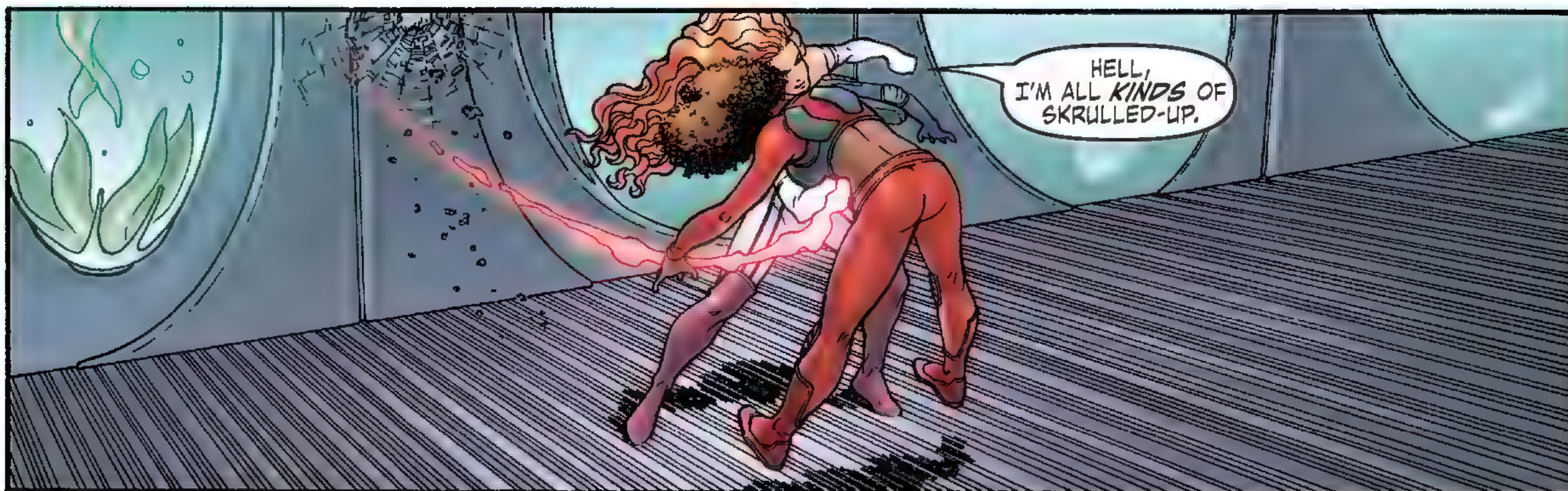
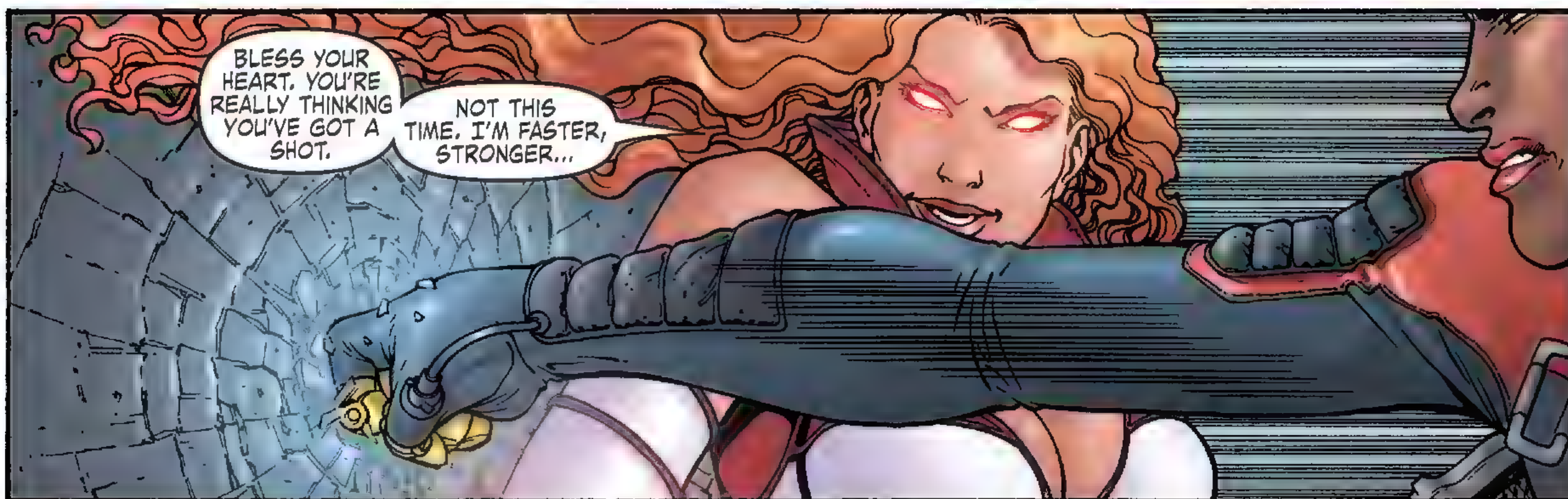
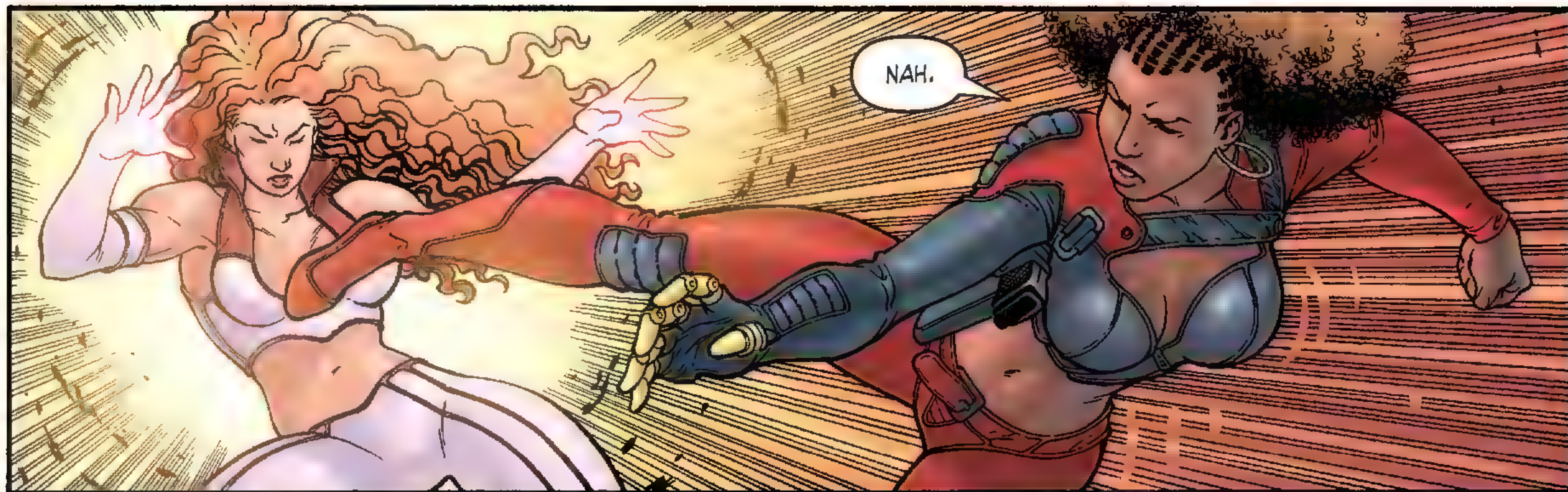
MY TRAINING
FORBIDS THE
INDULGENCE OF...
OH, NEVER
MIND.

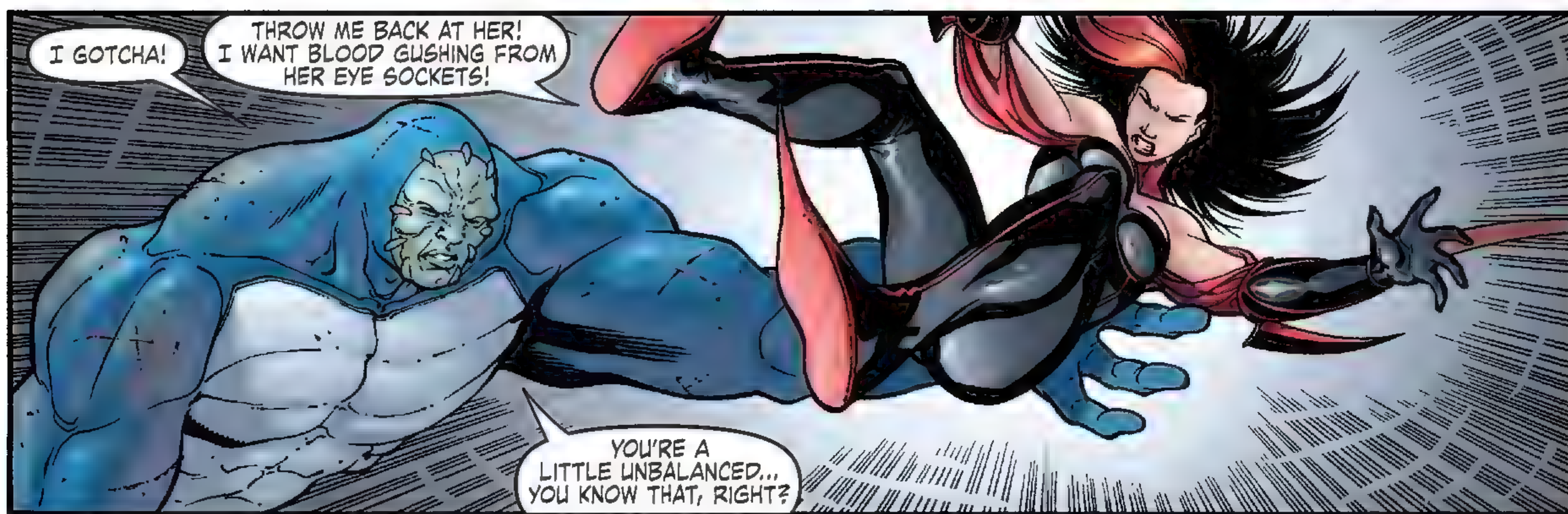
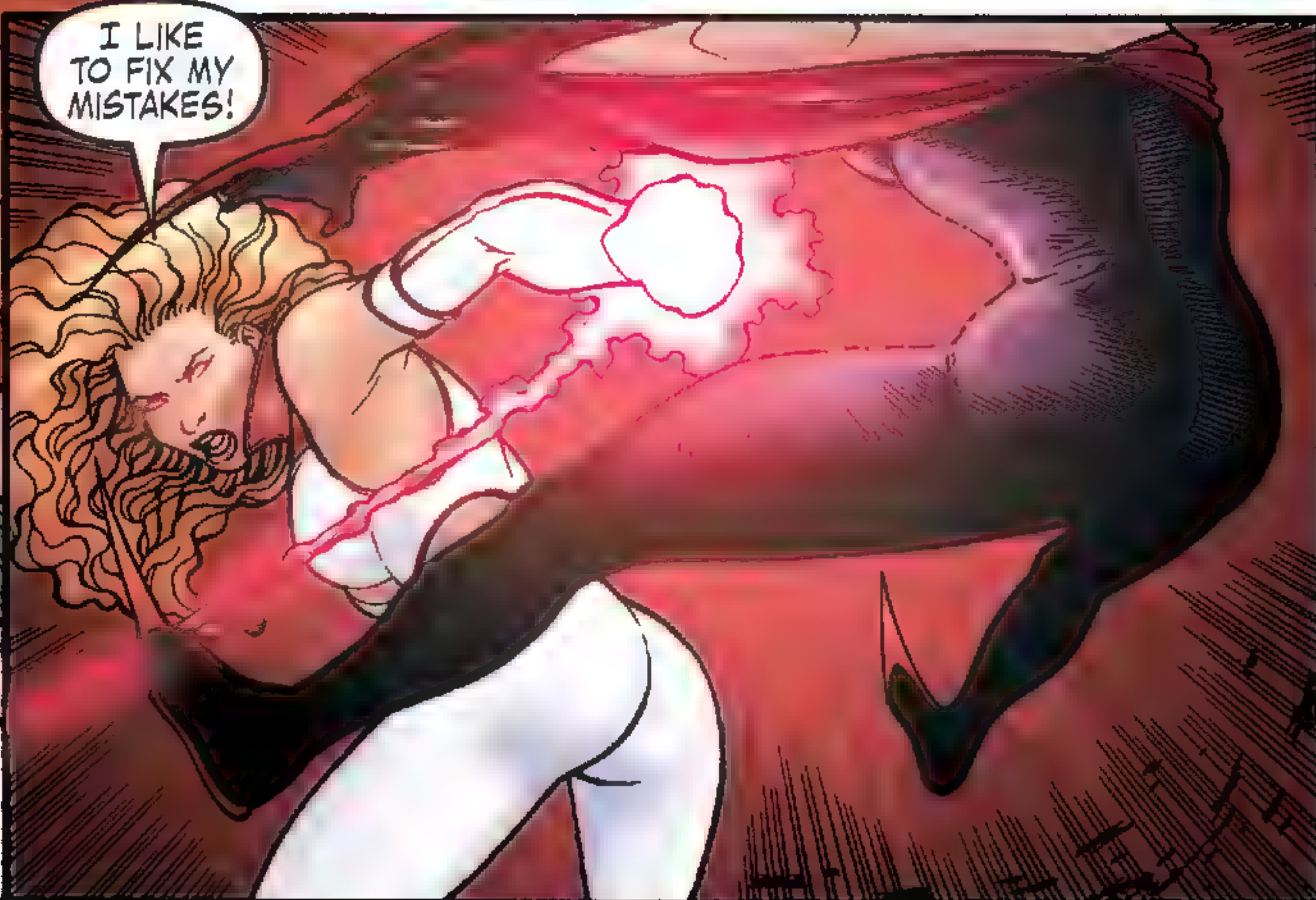
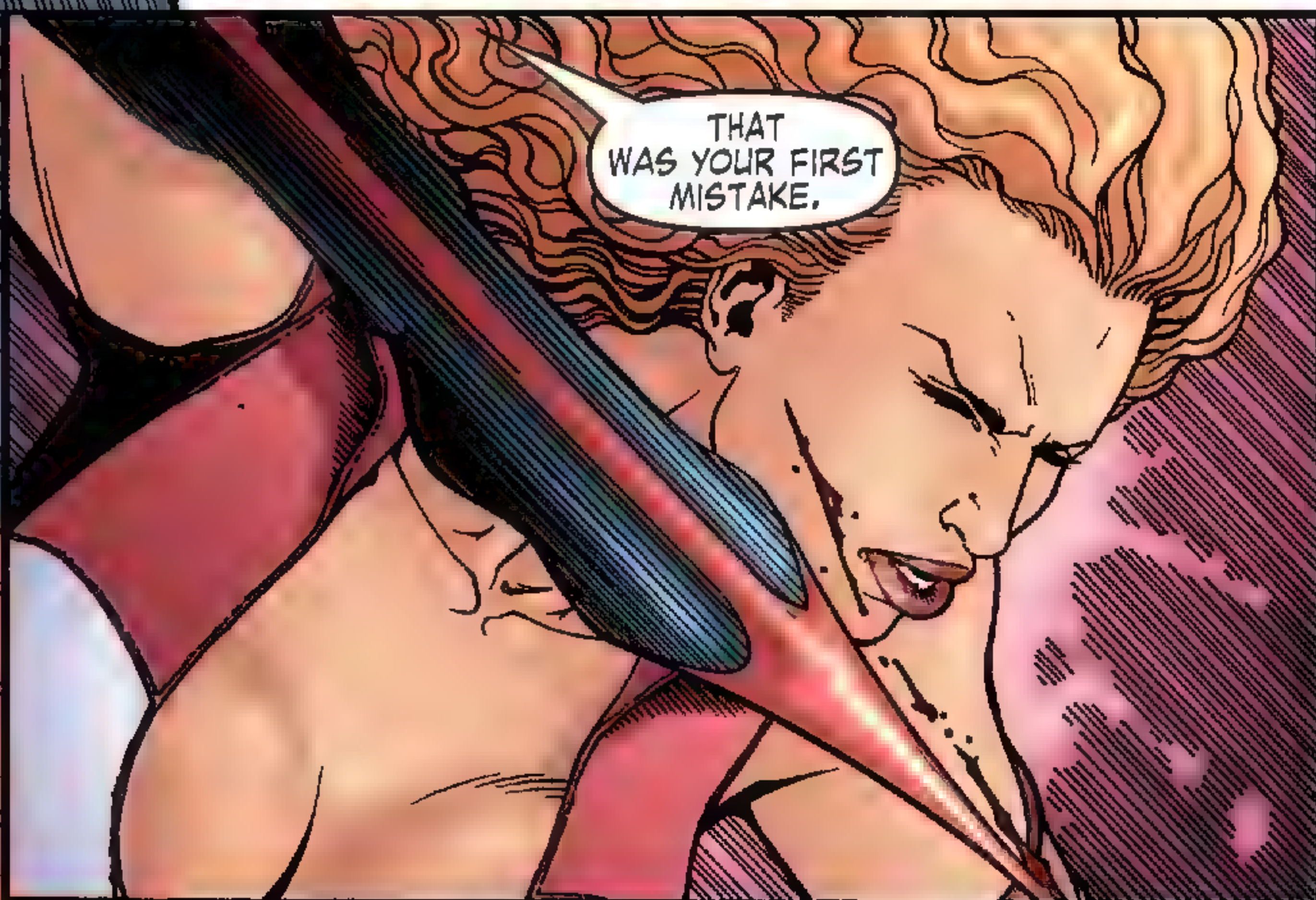
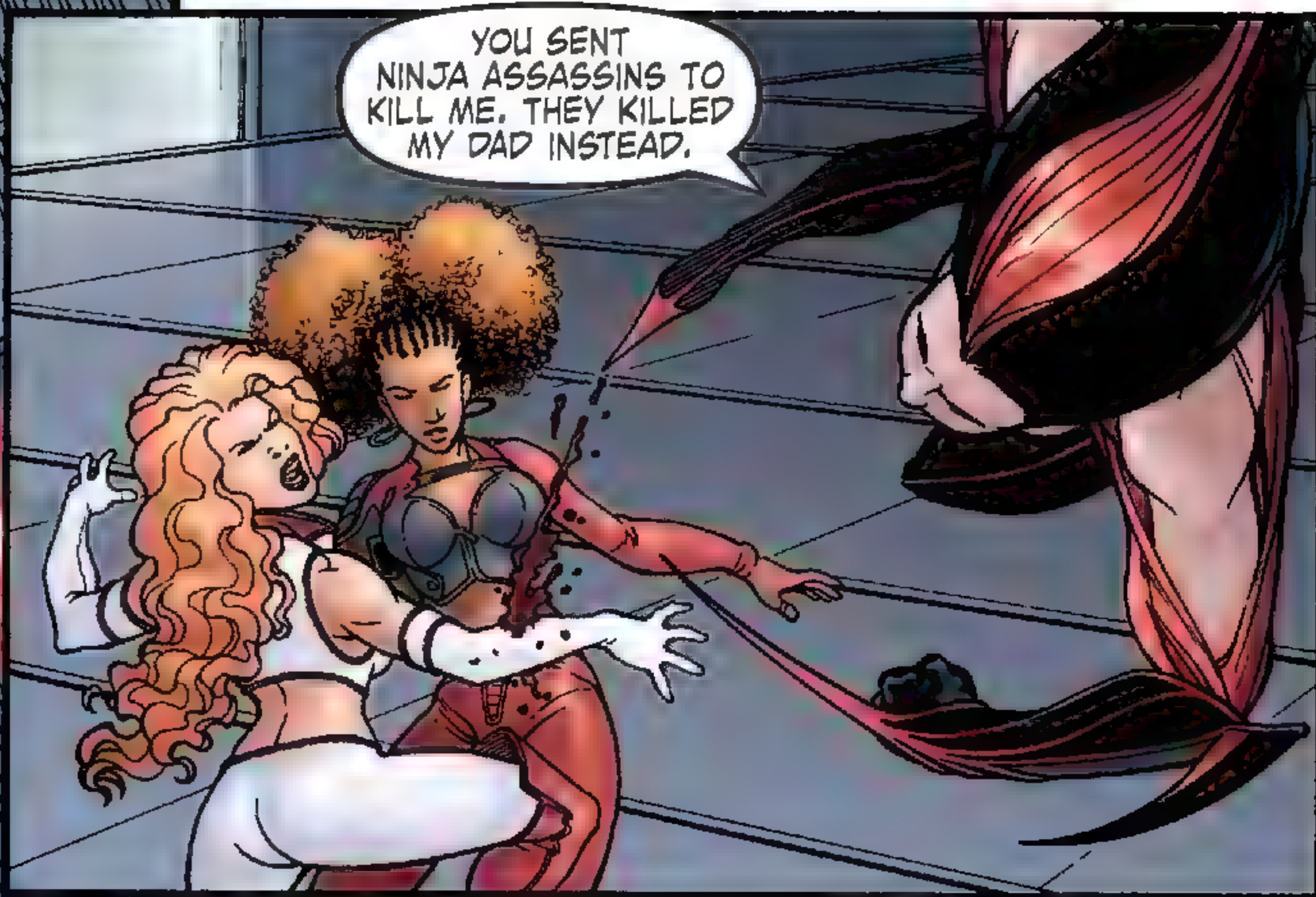
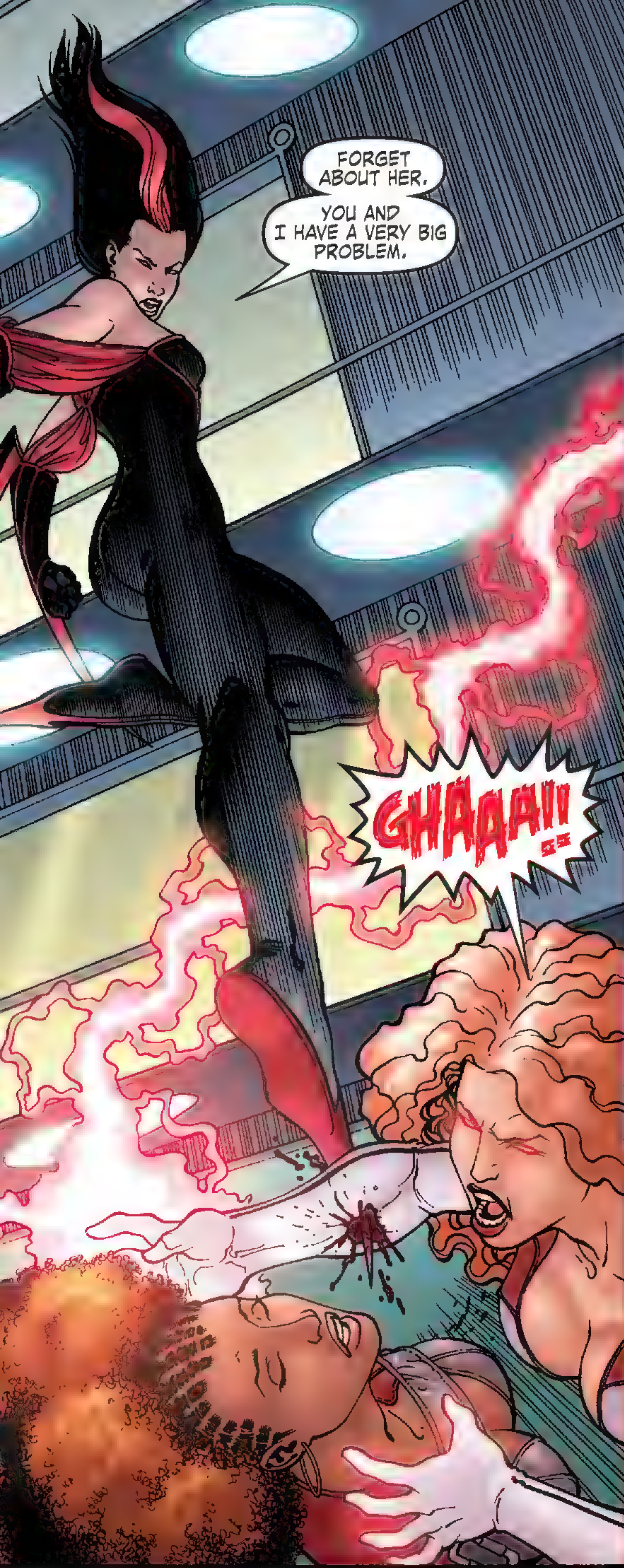


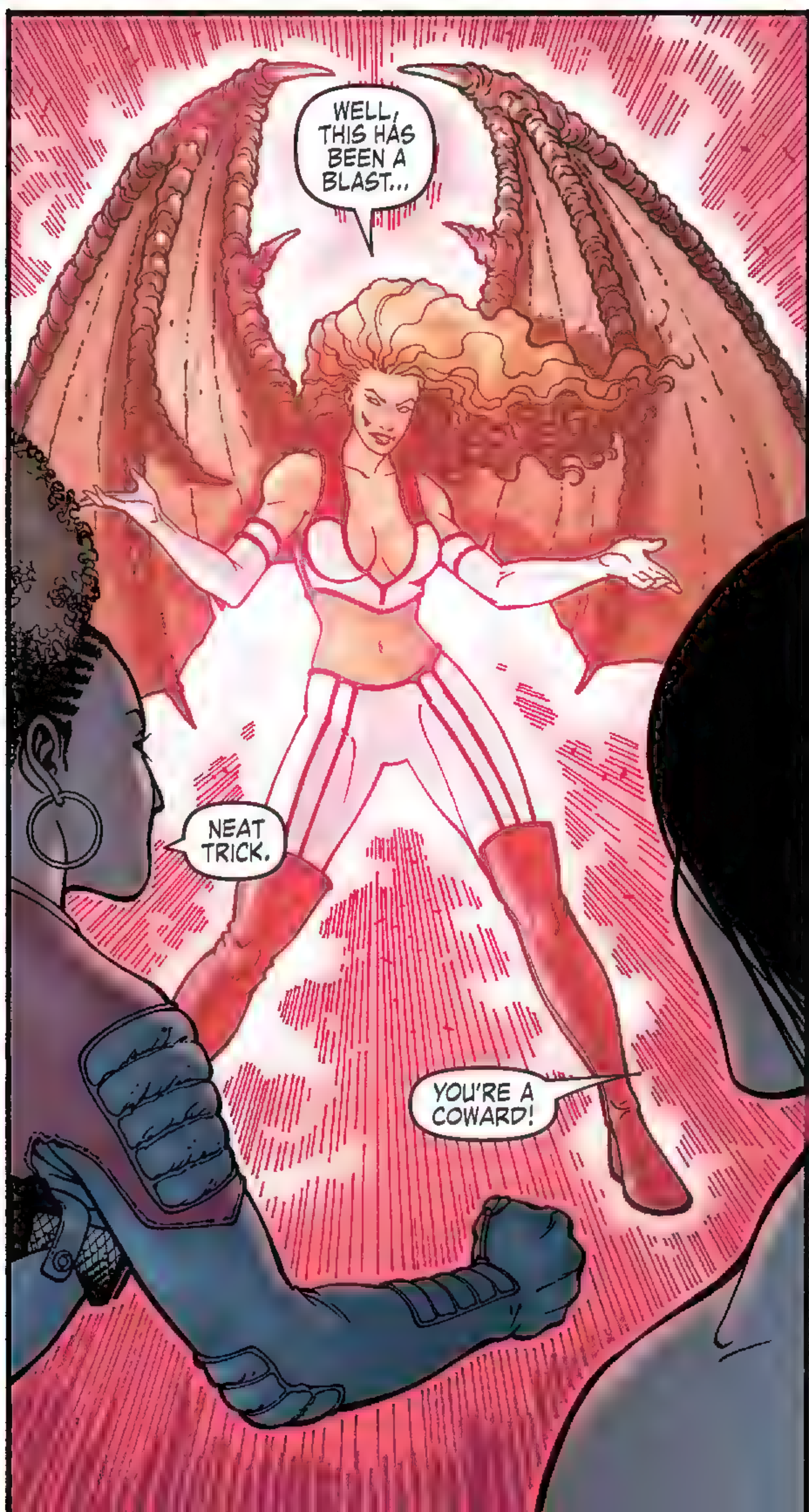
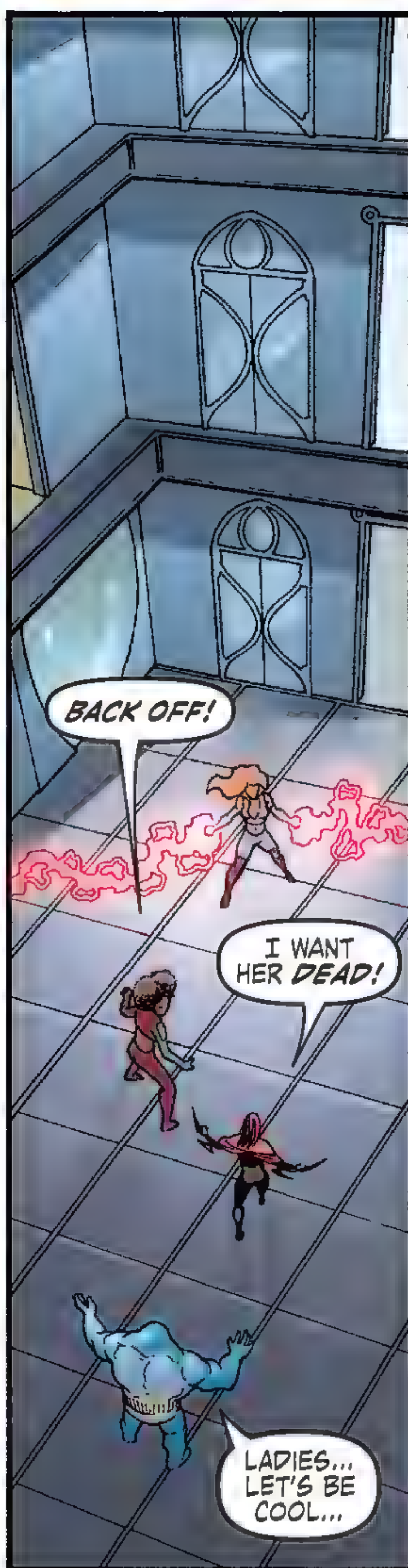
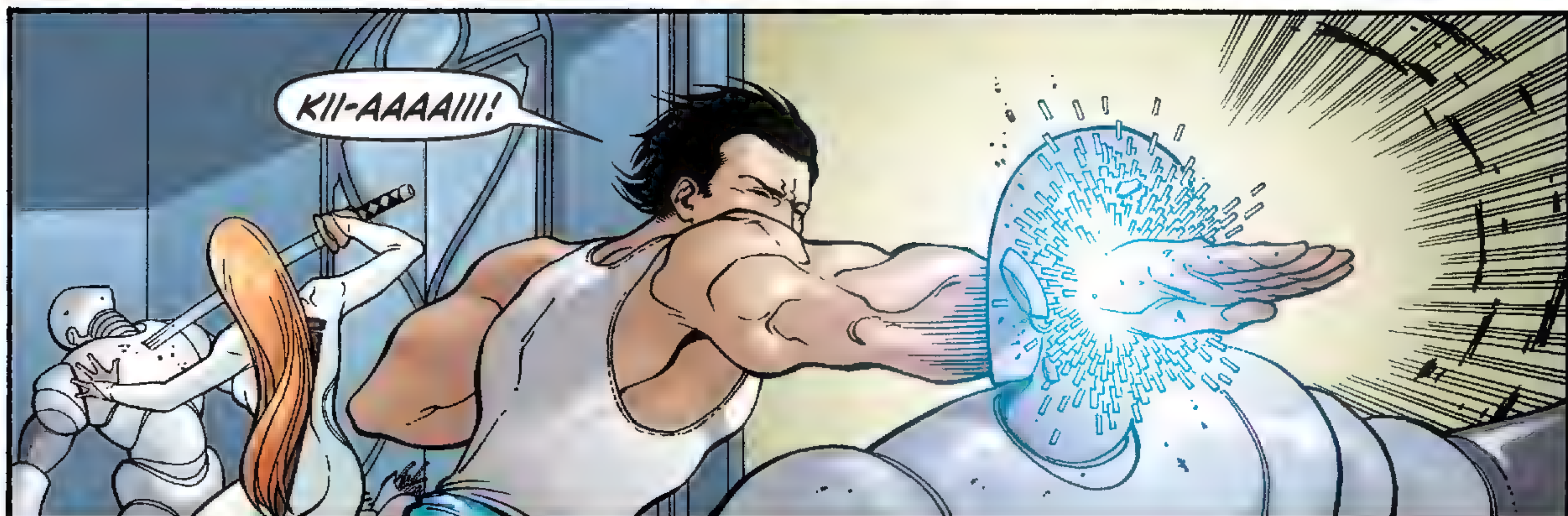
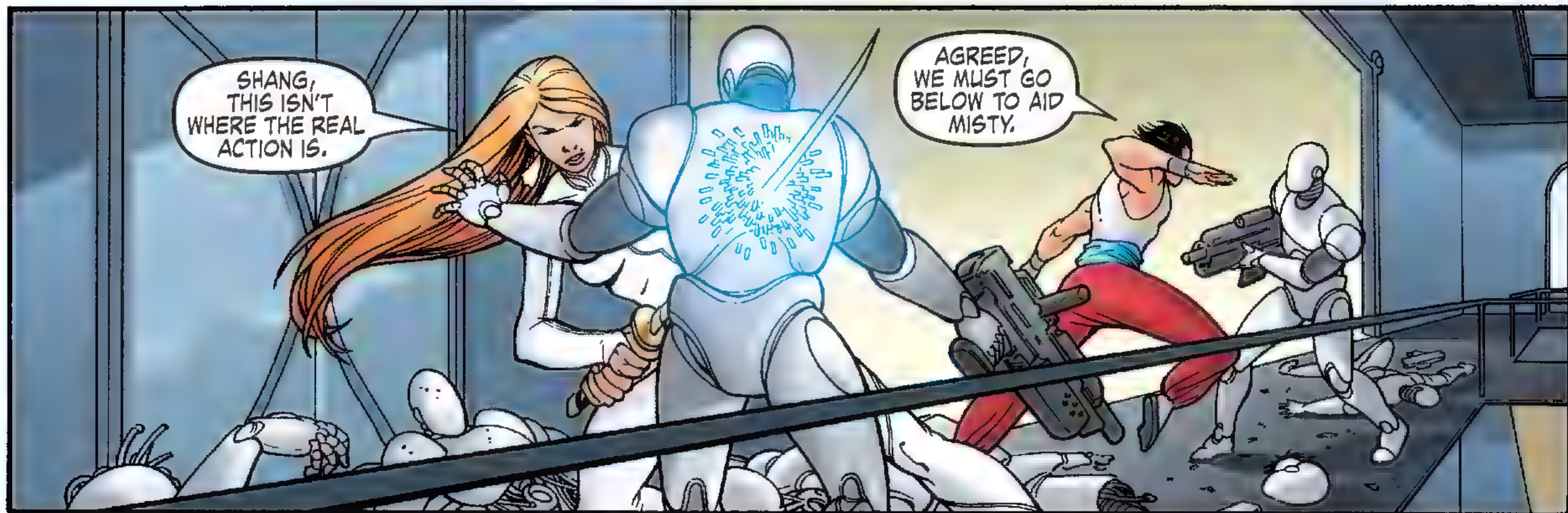


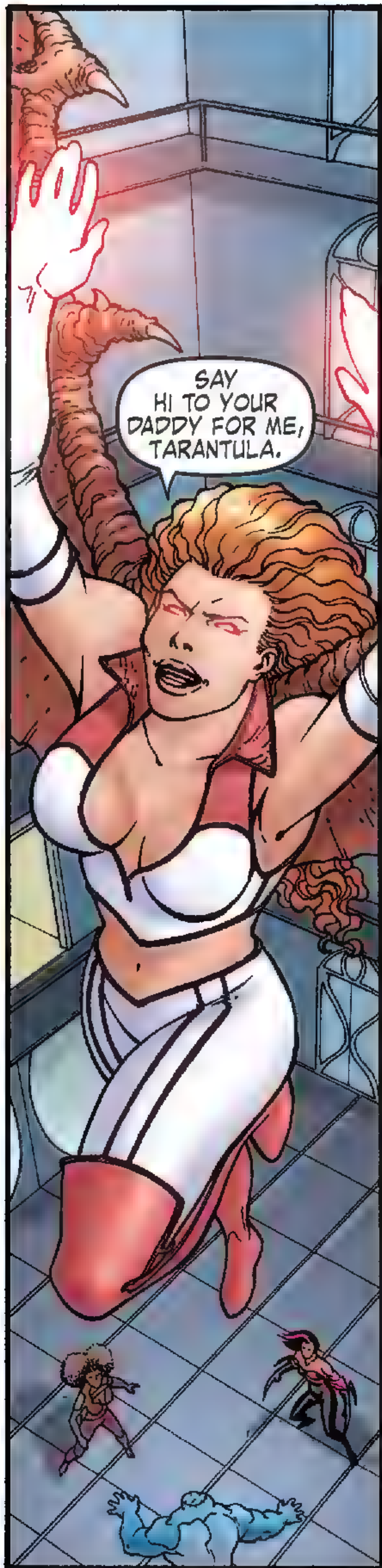




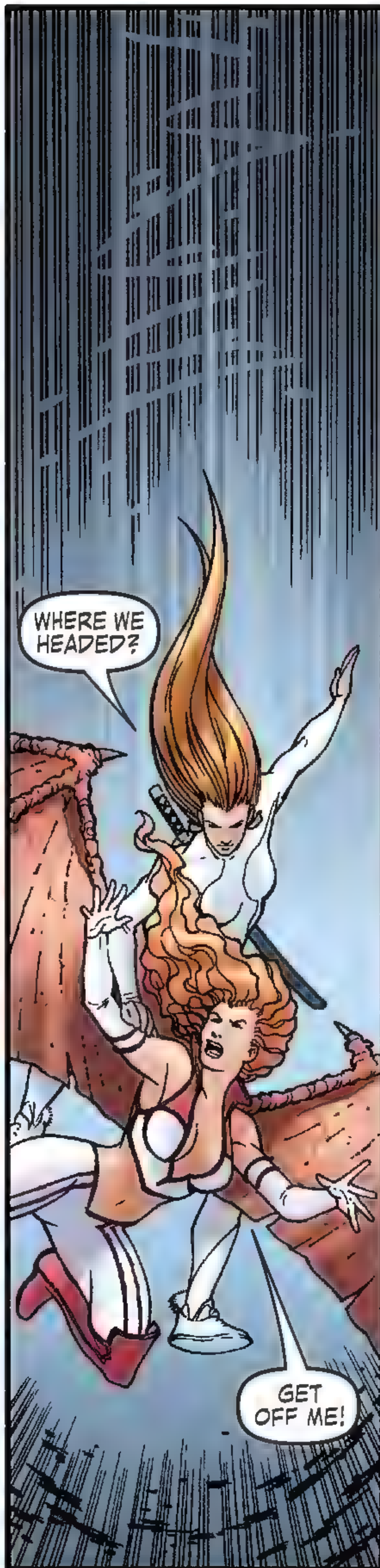








SAY
HI TO YOUR
DADDY FOR ME,
TARANTULA.



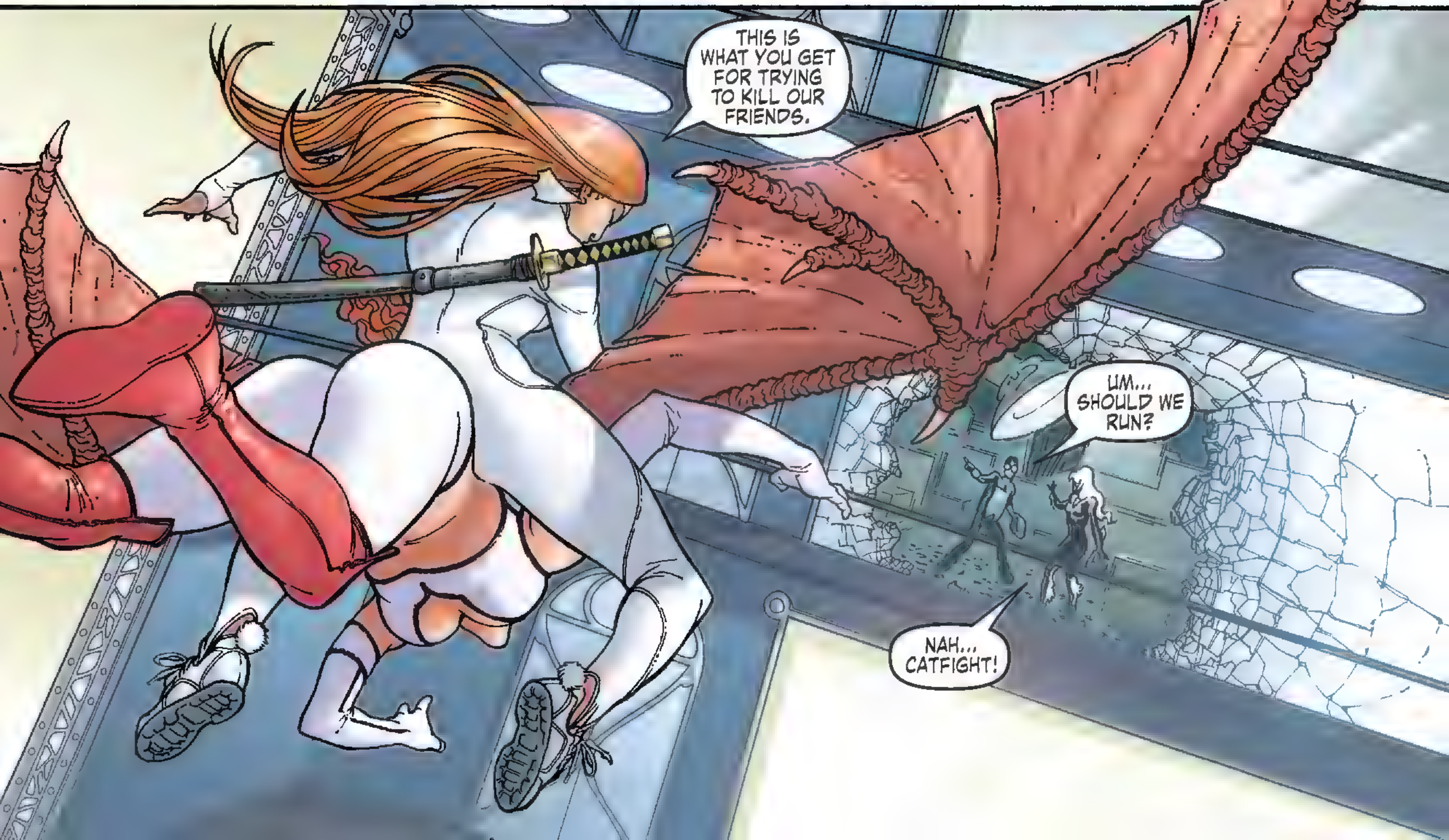
WHERE WE
HEADED?

GET
OFF ME!



THIS IS FUN!
FLY FASTER! DO
SOME SPINS!

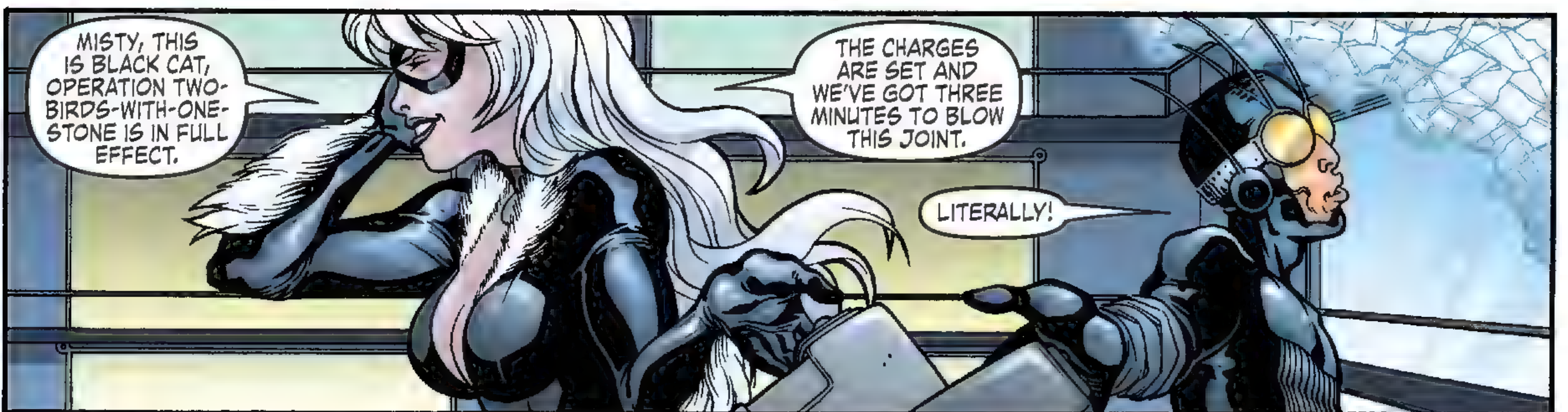
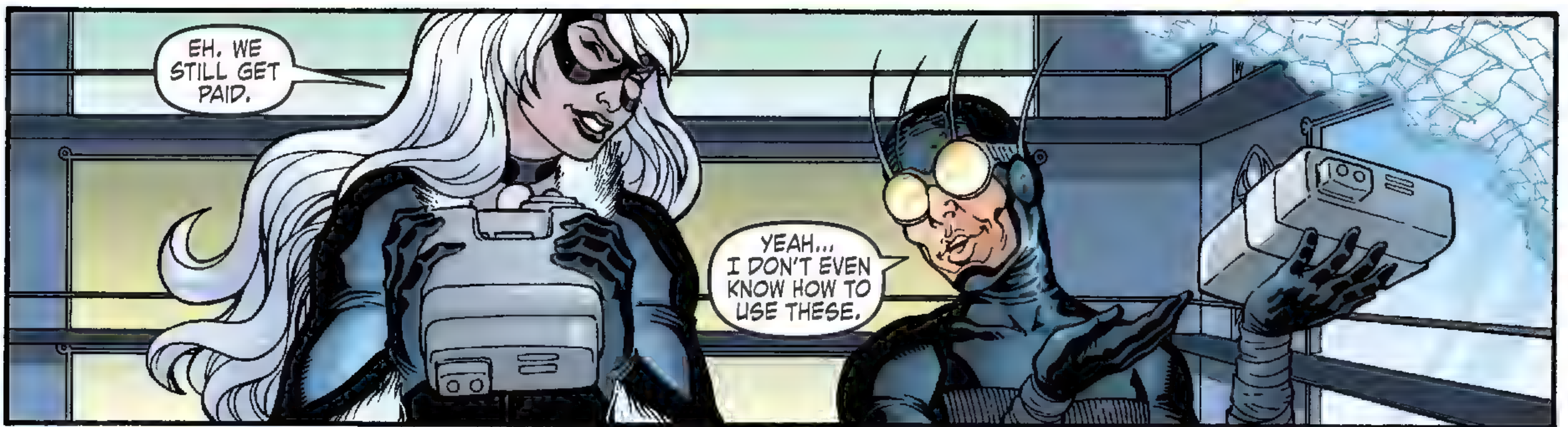
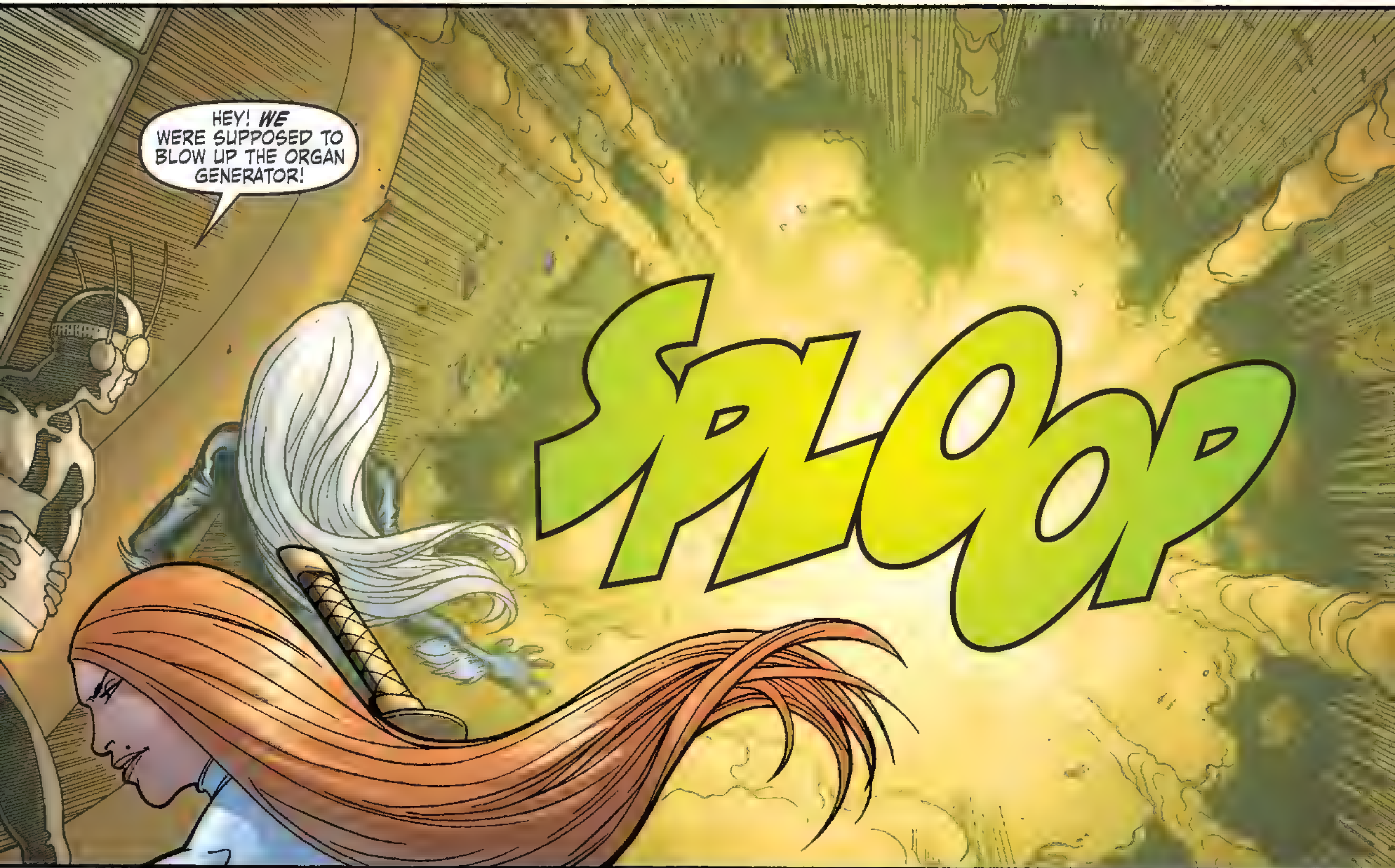
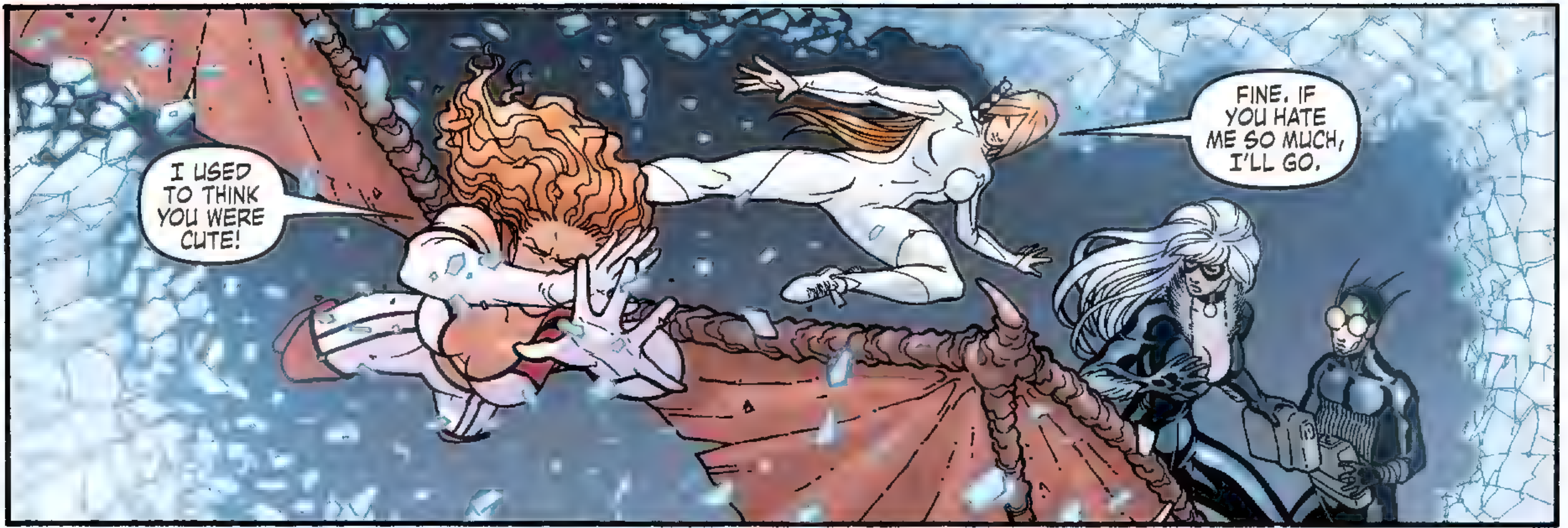
GOD, I
HATE YOU
PEOPLE!



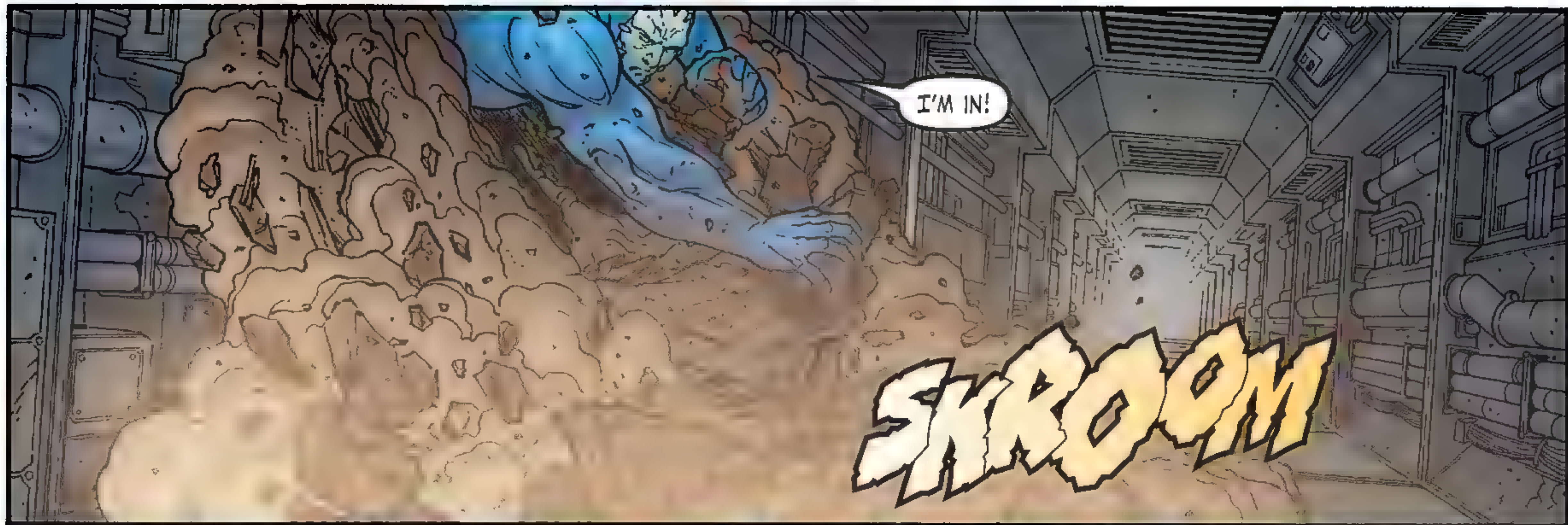
THIS IS
WHAT YOU GET
FOR TRYING
TO KILL OUR
FRIENDS.

UM...
SHOULD WE
RUN?

NAH...
CATFIGHT!







I'M IN!

SKROOM



DO WE REALLY HAVE TO SAVE THESE CLOWNS?

LOOK AT THEM AS POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS. THEY'LL NEED BAIL MONEY VERY SOON.

WICKED CLEVER.

CHOOOOMMM



WHAT OF THE SCIENTISTS THAT WORK HERE?

BUGS SAY THEY'VE GOT ESCAPE ROUTES.

I WISH THERE HAD BEEN ANOTHER WAY TO STOP RICADONNA.

BELIEVE ME... SHE HAD IT COMIN'.

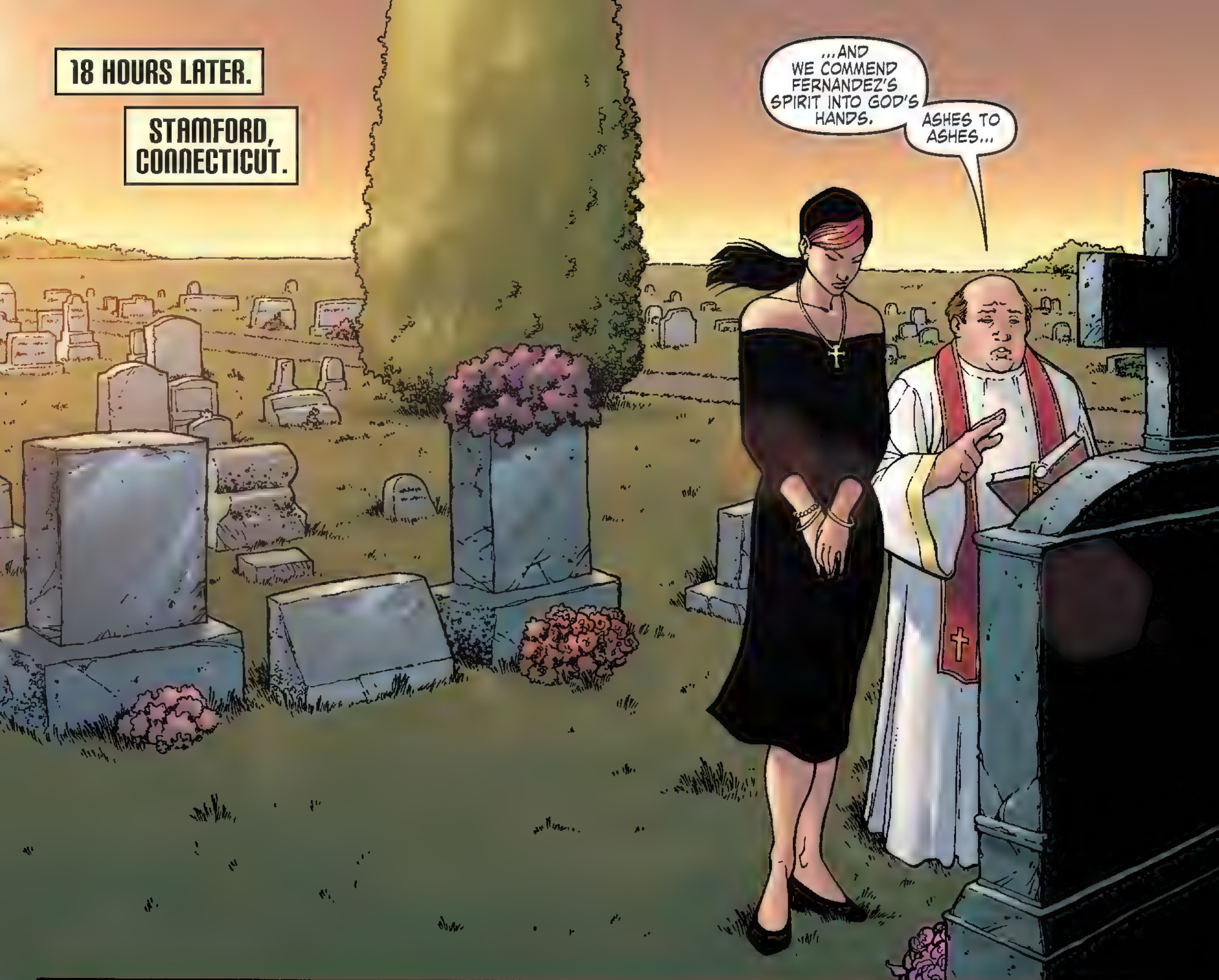


18 HOURS LATER.

STAMFORD,
CONNECTICUT.

...AND
WE COMMEND
FERNANDEZ'S
SPIRIT INTO GOD'S
HANDS.

ASHES TO
ASHES...



DUST TO
DUST.

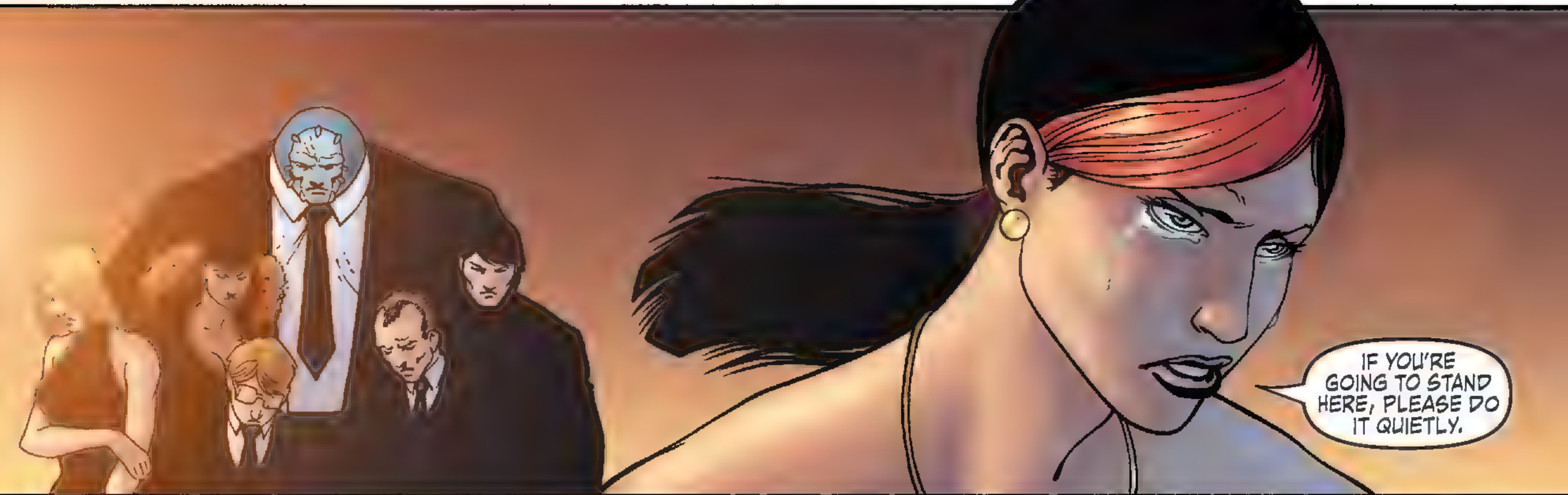
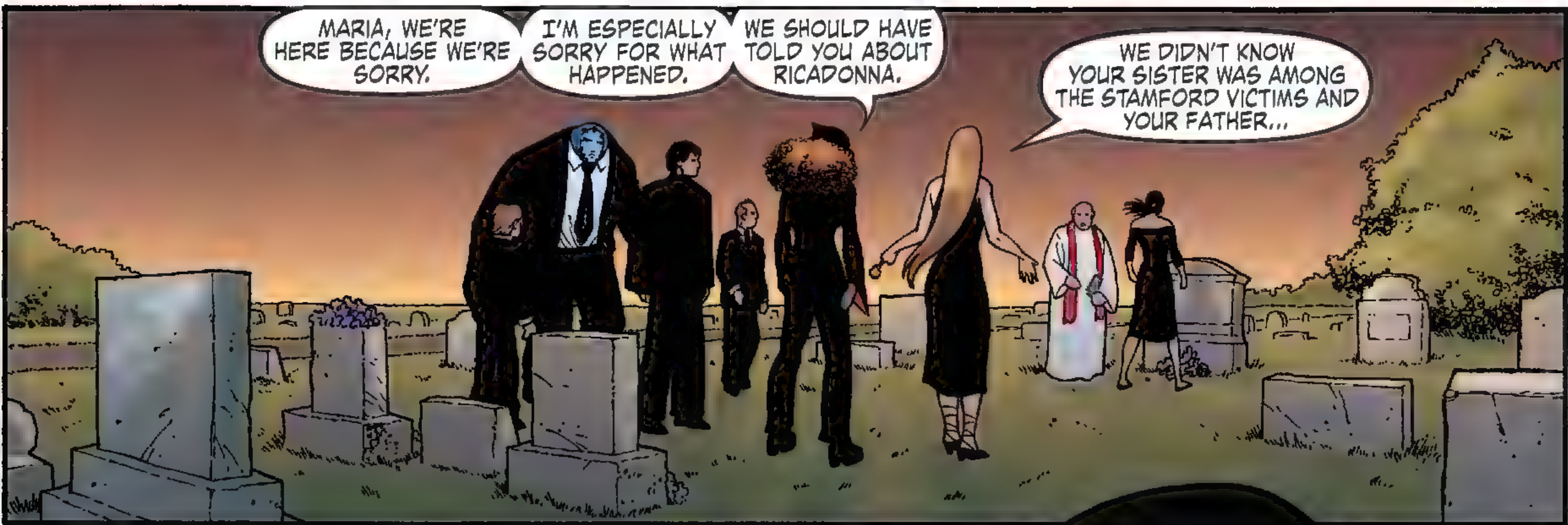


WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

WE CAME TO
GIVE YOU OUR
CONDOLENCES.

YOU WEREN'T
INVITED.





ONE WEEK LATER...

CHINATOWN.

SENSORS WON'T ALLOW ANY KIND OF EXPLOSIVE TO PASS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR OF THE RESTAURANT BELOW.





THANK YOU FOR THIS.

I WAS, AND AM STILL VERY SERIOUS ABOUT PROPERLY TRAINING ANYONE WHO IS IN THE FIELD.

I'M NOT JUST DOING THIS OUT OF FRIENDSHIP.

IF YOU SAY SO, TONY.

WILL YOU SEE ME OUT? I HAVE OTHER BUSINESS TO TEND TO.



TO BE CONTINUED!

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